

1 [Urging the Trump Administration - Stop Mass Deportation - Rehabilitated Formerly
2 Incarcerated Southeast Asian Nationals]

3 **Resolution respectfully urging the Trump Administration to stop the massive**
4 **deportation of rehabilitated formerly incarcerated Southeast Asian nationals.**

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6 WHEREAS, California is home to nearly a million Southeast Asians originating from
7 Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos; and

8 WHEREAS, Between 1975 to the early 1990s, the United States accepted hundreds of
9 thousands Southeast Asians escaping the Vietnam War and Khmer Rouge genocide of
10 Cambodia; and

11 WHEREAS, Most of the immigrants settled in California major cities likes San
12 Francisco, San Jose, Fresno, Long Beach, and Los Angeles; and

13 WHEREAS, These immigrants were typically placed in the poorest parts of these
14 communities with inadequate financial support and many of these individuals and their
15 children languish in severe poverty; in particular Cambodian refugees; which predispose them
16 to criminal activity and the criminal justice system; and

17 WHEREAS, The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996
18 expanded the definition of what type of crime that could result in deportation; the bill also
19 allowed the expanded definition to be applied retroactively; and

20 WHEREAS, The Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) estimates the
21 1996 Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, impacted more than 16,000
22 Southeast Asian Americans, many of whom were refugees fleeing the Vietnam War and the
23 Cambodian genocide; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2002, Cambodia's government signed a bilateral agreement that
25 allowed the implementation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility

1 Act of 1996 to be applicable to US Cambodia nationals who had committed deportable
2 offenses; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2016, Prime Minster of Cambodian, Hun Sen, questioned the
4 agreement and sought to renegotiated it for humanitarian grounds; and

5 WHEREAS, President Trump and his administration has continued to place harsh limits
6 on immigration and asylum with his national policy and he has particular sought out and
7 specifically targeted immigrants in the reentry community; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2019, more than 1700 non-detained Cambodians were given final
9 orders of removal; and

10 WHEREAS, Many individuals were District 10 residents who had more than 20 years
11 removed from their time of criminal convictions; these individuals had become pillars of their
12 communities, homeowners, fathers, mothers, and great tenure employees; and

13 WHEREAS, The Trump administration approach to deportation is controversial
14 because its breaks up families and in some cases, the returnees, have never lived in their
15 country of origin nor have a living relative; and

16 WHEREAS, The State of California and past Governor, Jerry Brown, started in 2018,
17 taken active roles in trying to stop/combat the massive deportation of Southeast Asians; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2018, Governor Brown pardoned two Cambodian former felons; while
19 many local public defender offices and legal advocacy groups have begun the process of
20 reopening old cases in a vigorous attempt to lower offensives to non-deportable charges to
21 stall countless deportations; and

22 WHEREAS, On February 22, 2019, California State Legislature in an Assembly Joint
23 Resolution 1 named the "Relative to Vietnamese Refugees" urged President Trump and his
24 administration to stop any efforts to reinterpret, disregard, or in any way prohibit the extension
25 of the 2008 United States-Vietnam repatriation agreement; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That, the City and County of San Francisco will not be silent or passive as
2 the Trump Administration continues attack our most vulnerable members of our community,
3 such as our DREAMers, our Muslim Community, our Transgender community, and now our
4 rehabilitated formerly incarcerated Southeast Asian community; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That, the City and County of San Francisco urges President
6 Trump and his administration to place an immediate moratorium on the deportation of
7 thousands of Southeast Asians whom crimes occurred more than ten years ago because the
8 City honors these individuals as they holdfast to American values of rehabilitation and the
9 need for second chances.

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