

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
California Attorney General
Attorney General's Office
California Department of Justice
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 261-20

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

On June 9, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 261-20 (Supporting Activists Facing Prosecution in Sonoma County - Conditions of Animals in Factory Farms), which was enacted on June 19, 2020.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following document to your attention:

- One copy of Resolution No. 261-20 (File No. 200126)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Calvillo".

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco

- c. Member of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Matt Haney
Sophia Kittler, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Eddie McCaffrey, Mayor's Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director
Rebecca Peacock, Mayor's Office
Paul Yoder, City Lobbyist - Shaw/Yoder/Antwih Inc.

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June 29, 2020

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly Member
California State Capitol, Room 4112
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 261-20

Dear Assembly Member Chiu:

On June 9, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 261-20 (Supporting Activists Facing Prosecution in Sonoma County - Conditions of Animals in Factory Farms), which was enacted on June 19, 2020.

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June 29, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 261-20

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On June 9, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 261-20 (Supporting Activists Facing Prosecution in Sonoma County - Conditions of Animals in Factory Farms), which was enacted on June 19, 2020.

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June 29, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senator
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 261-20

Dear Senator Harris:

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June 29, 2020

The Honorable Jill Ravitch
Sonoma County District Attorney
Sonoma County District Attorney's Office
600 Administration Drive, Room 212 J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 261-20

Dear Madam District Attorney:

On June 9, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 261-20 (Supporting Activists Facing Prosecution in Sonoma County - Conditions of Animals in Factory Farms), which was enacted on June 19, 2020.

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June 29, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 261-20

Dear Madam Speaker:

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June 29, 2020

Robert Waner
Sonoma County Deputy District Attorney
Sonoma County District Attorney's Office
600 Administration Drive, Room 212 J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 261-20

Dear Mr. Waner:

On June 9, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 261-20 (Supporting Activists Facing Prosecution in Sonoma County - Conditions of Animals in Factory Farms), which was enacted on June 19, 2020.

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June 29, 2020

The Honorable Phil Ting
California State Assembly Member
California State Capitol, Room 6026
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 261-20

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

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Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
City and County of

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June 29, 2020

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senator
California State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 261-20

Dear Senator Wiener:

On June 9, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 261-20 (Supporting Activists Facing Prosecution in Sonoma County - Conditions of Animals in Factory Farms), which was enacted on June 19, 2020.

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1 [Supporting Activists Facing Prosecution in Sonoma County - Conditions of Animals in Factory
2 Farms]

3 **Resolution supporting the non-violent activists facing prosecution in Sonoma County**
4 **over their attempt to expose the conditions of animals in factory farms.**

5
6 WHEREAS, California Penal Code, Section 597(b) makes it a crime to torture,
7 torment, deprive of necessary sustenance, drink, or shelter any animal, or cause any animal
8 to be so tortured, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, drink, or shelter, where the
9 words "torment" and "torture" include "every act, omission, or neglect whereby unnecessary
10 or unjustifiable physical pain or suffering is caused or permitted"; and

11 WHEREAS, California Penal Code, Section 597(e) makes it a crime to hold a domestic
12 animal in confinement without providing the animal with sufficient food and water, and also
13 provides a legal defense against the claim of trespass to anyone who enters the area where
14 the domestic animal is confined for the purpose of providing food and water; and

15 WHEREAS, California's animal cruelty statute, California Penal Code, Section 597 et
16 seq., does not contain an animal husbandry exemption and thus covers cruelty inflicted on
17 animals raised in commercial operations; and

18 WHEREAS, The public in California cares deeply about animals raised in commercial
19 operations, as evidenced by, among other things, the passage by 62.66% of voters of
20 Proposition 12 in 2018, which established new standards for confinement of farm animals and
21 banned noncomplying products; and

22 WHEREAS, The increasingly massive scale of industrialization of modern commercial
23 animal operations leads to increasing numbers of animals suffering from starvation or
24 dehydration; and

1 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the fact that leaving animals to starve to death violates
2 industry standards and California law, commercial animal operations routinely allow animals
3 to die of thirst or hunger when they are too sick or injured to reach food or water; and

4 WHEREAS, Many San Francisco consumers care deeply about animals and are willing
5 to pay a significant premium to purchase animal products from suppliers they believe have
6 treated animals humanely; and

7 WHEREAS, Companies that supply animal products have been known to portray their
8 treatment of animals in a substantially more favorable light than the reality; and

9 WHEREAS, Little or no enforcement of California's animal cruelty statute occurs with
10 respect to animals raised in commercial operations; and

11 WHEREAS, Peaceful activists have attempted to bring violations by commercial animal
12 operations of California's animal cruelty statute to the attention of the public as well as law
13 and regulatory enforcement agencies, including video and photographic evidence of animals
14 caught in wire cages and left with large, untreated sores, and animals who had died of thirst,
15 starvation, injury, or illness whose bodies were lying among the living; and

16 WHEREAS, 148 activists, some of whom are San Francisco residents, were arrested in
17 Sonoma County while trying to document the conditions of commercial animal operations and
18 rescue animals therein from thirst, starvation, injury, and illness; and

19 WHEREAS, Six of those activists currently face felony charges in Sonoma County in
20 connection with those investigations and rescues, and an additional seven activists face
21 misdemeanor charges for the same; and

22 WHEREAS, The act of investigating the conditions of commercial animal operations
23 and exposing abuses to the public and to law enforcement, and providing relief to animals
24 who are thirsty, starving, injured, or sick, is in the interests of both those individual animals
25 and the public that cares about them; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby declare that the 13
2 individuals being prosecuted in Sonoma County are non-violent activists who were
3 investigating and attempting to expose the abuses of animals in commercial animal
4 operations; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourage the Sonoma County
6 District Attorney to dismiss such prosecution; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourage the Sonoma County
8 District Attorney to devote the resources that could be saved from these actions to instead
9 investigate and prosecute potential violations of the law in commercial animal operations in
10 Sonoma County; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourage law and regulatory
12 enforcement agencies in California, including the California Attorney General and the
13 California Department of Food and Agriculture, to investigate and prosecute potential
14 violations of the law in commercial animal operations throughout California; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urge the California State
16 Legislature to pass laws expanding the protection of animals raised in commercial animal
17 operations; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirm the commitment of the
19 Board of Supervisors to the protection of all animals; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Sonoma
21 County District Attorney Jill Ravitch, Sonoma County Deputy District Attorney Robert Waner,
22 Assembly Member David Chiu, Assembly Member Phil Ting, State Senator Scott Weiner,
23 Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, and
24 California Attorney General Xavier Becerra.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
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Tails
Resolution

File Number: 200126

Date Passed: June 09, 2020

Resolution supporting the non-violent activists facing prosecution in Sonoma County over their attempt to expose the conditions of animals in factory farms.

May 28, 2020 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee - RECOMMENDED

June 09, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 200126

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/9/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

[Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo]

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

06/19/2020

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

[Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo]

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

06/19/2020

Date