

1 [Honoring the Victims of the VTA Rail Yard Shooting]

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3 **Resolution honoring the victims of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority**
4 **(VTA) rail yard shooting.**

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6 WHEREAS, On Wednesday May 26, 2021, nine victims were killed in a mass shooting
7 at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) rail yard in San Jose, California; and

8 WHEREAS, Abdolvahab Alaghmandan, better known as Abdi, a VTA employee of 20
9 years and ATU LOCAL 265 member, and an immigrant who moved to the United States from
10 Tehran, Iran in 1995, was murdered in the shooting; and

11 WHEREAS, Adrian Balleza, a VTA worker of seven years and ATU Local 265 member
12 who was known for his smile and goofy jokes that made the workplace more fun for everyone,
13 was murdered in the shooting; and

14 WHEREAS, Alex Ward Fritch, a substation maintainer at the VTA and ATU Local 265
15 member, who was an optimistic and passionate person who loved Tiki crawls, dirt bikes, Star
16 Wars and his two teenage boys, was murdered in the shooting; and

17 WHEREAS, Jose Dejesus Hernandez III, a substation maintainer at the VTA, ATU
18 Local 265 member, and the son of a retired VTA worker, who could fix anything, loved his
19 hobbies and lived life with zest, was murdered in the shooting; and

20 WHEREAS, Lars Kepler Lane, a VTA worker of 20 years and ATU Local 265 member,
21 and husband of 22 years, a father and grandfather who was an avid bicyclist, was murdered
22 in the shooting; and

23 WHEREAS, Michael Joseph Rudometkin, better known as “Mikey,” an overhead line
24 worker at VTA and ATU Local 265 member, and who loved to golf, ski, and tinker on
25 motorcycles and cars, was murdered in the shooting; and

1 WHEREAS, Paul Delacruz Megia, a VTA worker of ten years and AFSCME Local 1101
2 member, and a comic, a loving husband, son and father who bravely saved the lives of his
3 coworkers, was murdered in the shooting; and

4 WHEREAS, Taptejdeep Singh, a VTA light rail operator and ATU Local 265 member,
5 and an immigrant who moved to California from Punjab, India 17 years ago who bravely
6 saved the lives of his coworkers, was murdered in the shooting; and

7 WHEREAS, Timothy Michael Romo, a VTA worker of 22 years and ATU Local 265
8 member, and a husband, father, and grandfather described as “always the life of the party”, a
9 handyman and a brave soul, was murdered in the shooting; and

10 WHEREAS, The nine lives taken were public employees who were frontline workers
11 that dedicated their careers to serving Santa Clara transit riders; and

12 WHEREAS, The family and friends of the victims, including many children and seniors,
13 are continuing to experience a mental, emotional, and physical toll from the shooting, and
14 need affordable and continued access to health care; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins in mourning the deaths
16 and celebrating the lives of the nine victims killed in the shooting at the VTA rail yard; and, be
17 it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors applauds the
19 heroism and compassion of the first responders and emergency medical personnel who
20 responded to the shooting, and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors will continue its
22 commitment to expanding access to health care, particularly mental health services, for
23 victims and families of victims of gun violence and other trauma; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors reaffirms its
2 responsibility to continue working with other Bay Area Counties to target the root causes of
3 gun violence and prevent more people from dying in acts of gun violence.

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