

1 [Condemning the Suspension of U.S. Track Athlete Sha'Carri Richardson]

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3 **Resolution condemning the suspension of U.S. Track Athlete Sha'Carri Richardson and**
4 **urging the United States Anti-Doping Agency and World Anti-Doping Agency to change**
5 **the classification of cannabis and remove it from its list of prohibited substances.**

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7 WHEREAS, Sha'Carri Richardson won the 100 meters at the U.S Track and Field
8 Olympic Trials in Oregon in June 2021 qualifying her for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics; and

9 WHEREAS, Sha'Carri Richardson tested positive for cannabis use by the the United
10 States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) shortly after her race and was barred from competing in
11 the Tokyo Olympics; and

12 WHEREAS, Sha'Carri was grieving the death of her biological mother who died days
13 before the U.S. Trials in addition to the stress of the trials; and

14 WHEREAS, As many as 19 U.S. states have legalized cannabis use, including the
15 state of Oregon in which Sha'Carri Richardson used cannabis, and 35 countries across the
16 world have legalized cannabis in some form; and

17 WHEREAS, Professional leagues such as the NFL, NHL, and NBA have reduced the
18 enforcement of marijuana rules, they have acknowledged that the drug does not enhance
19 performance, despite that, the Olympics still tests and punishes athletes for its use; and

20 WHEREAS, The WADA's own medical director has stated there is no evidence for
21 cannabis use as a performance-enhancing drug; and

22 WHEREAS, Although the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has reduced the
23 penalties for cannabis use and reclassified it by removing it from the category of performance-
24 enhancing drug, the WADA continues to prohibit its use as it 'relaxes' athletes ahead of
25 competition, which can 'enhance' their performance; and

1 WHEREAS, These drug policies are a produce of anti-drug laws that have historically
2 impacted Black and Brown communities; so, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors condemns the decision to
4 suspend Sha'Carri Richardson and bar her from competing in the Tokyo Olympics; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urge the USADA and the
6 WADA to change the classification of cannabis and remove it from its list of prohibited
7 substances.

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