

1 [Affirming the Board of Supervisors Commitment to Police Accountability and Racial Justice in
2 Our Policing Practices]

3 **Resolution affirming the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commitment to police**
4 **accountability and racial justice in our policing practices and urging the San Francisco**
5 **Police Department to review use of force policies and explore other methods of de-**
6 **escalation and alternatives to the use of force.**

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8 WHEREAS, The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution states that
9 no state shall “deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws;
10 therefore government institutions across the nation have a responsibility to ensure equal
11 protections and outcomes for all people;” and

12 WHEREAS, The report, *Operation Ghetto Storm*, authored by the Malcolm X
13 Grassroots Movement, documents 313 Black people in the United States who were killed by
14 “police, security guards, and vigilantes” in 2012, or one every 28 hours; and

15 WHEREAS, A 2014 analysis by the news organization *ProPublica* found that the risk of
16 young Black males being shot and killed by police is twenty-one times greater than the risk for
17 young white males; and

18 WHEREAS, *The Guardian US* reports that 1138 people were killed by police in the
19 United States in 2015 and that 20 people have been killed by the police in the U.S. in 2016 as
20 of January 13; and

21 WHEREAS, The recent incidents of officer involved killings of people of color,
22 overwhelmingly impacting young Black and Brown men, has led to sustained, large-scale
23 protests across the country and underscored the United States’ centuries old, failed promise
24 of racial equality; and

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1 WHEREAS, Effective public safety efforts rely on good community-police relations
2 based on mutual trust, transparency, and accountability; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite SFPD claims that San Francisco has shown a stronger
4 commitment to community-police relations, San Francisco is not immune to tensions between
5 communities and police particularly involving the use of force, officer-involved shootings,
6 racial profiling allegations, and accountability in police investigations; and

7 WHEREAS, These tensions have their roots in a social, educational and economic
8 system which disproportionately limits the advancement of African American and Latino
9 residents, showing that one's race is a major factor in determining the opportunities a person
10 can receive in life and that our society still suffers from racial bias; and

11 WHEREAS, Despite updates in training, community outreach, and attempts to improve
12 police-community relations and create an inclusive police force, the SFPD is not immune to
13 racial bias; and

14 WHEREAS, In May of 2014, the SFPD Internal Affairs Division's "Summary of Officer
15 Involved Shootings Since 2000" memorandum reported that since 2000, 97 San Francisco
16 Police Department (SFPD) officer-involved shootings had occurred, resulting in 33 deaths and
17 35 people being injured, and

18 WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Division memo reported that in every case where
19 someone was killed in an SFPD office-involved shooting, the officers were found to have
20 acted within policy; however, a number of cases created controversy and tensions between
21 communities and the police; and

22 WHEREAS, The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project has identified the race of 96 of the 100
23 people killed by law enforcement officers since 1985, and found that 69% of those killed were
24 people of color and 40% were black; and

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1 WHEREAS, Alex Nieto was killed by SFPD officers on March 21, 2014, when he was
2 shot at least ten times; and

3 WHEREAS, Although the SFPD found that the officers involved had acted within policy,
4 Alex Nieto’s family, citing testimony that conflicts with the SFPD accounts, has filed a civil
5 rights, wrongful death lawsuit that will be heard in the US District Court on March 1, 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, Amilcar Perez-Lopez was killed by SFPD officers on February 26, 2015;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The family of Amilcar Perez-Lopez has filed a civil rights, wrongful death
9 lawsuit with the federal government. Their lawsuit cites forensic evidence indicating he was
10 shot from behind in apparent contradiction to police testimony; and

11 WHEREAS, Mario Woods was killed by police on December 2, 2015; and

12 WHEREAS, Video footage of five SFPD officers shooting Woods has generated shock,
13 anger, and questions about SFPD’s Use of Force policies; and

14 WHEREAS, SFPD General Order 5.01 on Use of Force was last updated in 1995; and

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Chief Suhr stated that it
16 appeared that the officers were justified in shooting Woods and quotes Suhr as saying “It’s a
17 tragic loss anytime somebody dies. We never want to do that. But this is all they could do;”
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Examiner reports that at December 4 town hall
20 meeting, Police Chief Greg Suhr displayed still photos from the video of Woods’ shooting to
21 argue that Woods had extended his arm while holding a knife prior to the shooting; and

22 WHEREAS, KQED News posted an analysis of the video that “suggests that officers
23 opened fire a fraction of a second before Woods’ arm moved;” and

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1 WHEREAS, A few days later, another video surfaced which presented even stronger
2 images that contradict the SFPD and Chief Suhr’s contention that Mario Woods had
3 aggressively raised his hand with the knife before the officers shot their firearms; and

4 WHEREAS, Because of the SFPD’s recent effort to show that officers conducted
5 themselves within policy in the officer involved shooting of Mario Woods despite conflicting
6 evidence, community members are questioning the Police Department accounts of many
7 other officer-involved shootings to the extent that officers appear to have impunity; now;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors extends its deepest
10 condolences to the families of victims of police killings; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the United States
12 Department of Justice to undertake independent investigation of the shootings of Alex Nieto,
13 Amilcar Lopez-Perez, and Mario Woods, and of the process by which the SFPD investigates
14 use of force incidents; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirms its commitment to equal
16 justice under the law and pledges to work with the community and public safety departments
17 to review local ordinances, officer training, and policies to address racial profiling and the use
18 of excessive force and to ensure transparency and accountability within public safety
19 departments; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Police Commission
21 to review the SFPD’s protocol of having Police Department spokespeople comment on
22 whether officers had acted within policy in incidents of the use of force and officer involved
23 shootings prior to the completion of official investigations; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Police Commission
25 to conduct a review of SFPD’s Use of Force policies, implementation of Crisis Intervention

1 Training and Implicit Bias Awareness Training, and other methods of de-escalation and
2 alternatives to the use of force; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes that community
4 police relations, institutional police reform and police accountability are founded on trust,
5 transparency and collaboration; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges that police reform efforts
7 involve a collaborative, transparent and inclusive bridge-building process involving
8 nontraditional leaders of the African American and Latino communities who have been critical
9 of policing and whose communities have felt victimized by policing; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
11 to transmit copies of this resolution to the San Francisco Police Commission, San Francisco
12 District Attorney George Gascón, California Attorney General Kamala Harris, San Francisco's
13 representatives in Congress and the United States Senate, to Attorney General Eric Holder,
14 and to President Barack Obama.

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