

1 [Urging the Return of Elian Gonzalez To His Father, Juan Gonzalez]

2 **SUPPORTING SENATE RESOLUTION 79, SPONSORED BY SENATORS CHRISTOPHER**
3 **DODD, BARBARA BOXER, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, RICHARD DURBIN AND PATRICK**
4 **LEAHY, URGING THE RETURN OF SIX YEAR OLD ELIAN GONZALEZ TO HIS FATHER,**
5 **JUAN GONZALEZ OF CUBA.**

6 WHEREAS, Elian Gonzalez, a six year old citizen of Cuba, lost his mother in a tragic
7 boat accident and floated alone for days in treacherous conditions off the coast of Florida; and

8 WHEREAS, Elian Gonzalez was found November 25, 1999, alive but physically and
9 emotionally drained, brought ashore and examined at a hospital, and released temporarily by
10 the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) into the care of his great-uncle and cousins in
11 the Miami areas while the INS evaluated his case; and

12 WHEREAS, The natural father and sole surviving parent of Elian Gonzalez, Juan
13 Gonzalez of Cuba, has repeatedly requested the United States Government return his son to
14 him immediately; and

15 WHEREAS, The President rightly determined that the fate of Elian Gonzalez should be
16 determined by United States statutes and regulations related to immigration cases involving
17 children; and

18 WHEREAS, The INS, after interviewing Juan Gonzalez twice in Cuba and carefully
19 reviewing all relevant laws, rules, and evidence correctly determined on January 5 2000, that
20 Juan Gonzalez is a caring and involved father, that Elian Gonzalez faces no credible threat of
21 political persecution if returned to his father, and as a result, that Juan Gonzalez possesses
22 the sole authority of speaking for Elian Gonzalez regarding his son's immigration status in the
23 United States under immigration law and universally accepted legal norms; and

24 WHEREAS, The INS resolved to return Elian Gonzalez to Cuba by January 14, 2000,
25 to live with his father Juan Gonzalez, in accordance with his father's request; and

Supervisors Ammiano, Bierman

1 WHEREAS, On January 12, 2000 the Attorney General fully supported the INS ruling,
2 reaffirmed INS jurisdiction over the matter, and said that a decision by a Florida State court
3 judge granting temporary custody of Elian Gonzalez to his relatives in Miami, establishing a
4 march 6, 2000, date for a hearing on permanent custody, and calling for the father's presence
5 at that hearing had no force and effect; and

6 WHEREAS, Only the Federal courts have the jurisdiction to review the Attorney
7 General's decision; and

8 WHEREAS, What Elian Gonzalez needs most at this time is to be with the father and
9 both set of grandparents who raised him so that he can begin the process of grieving for his
10 other, in peace; and

11 WHEREAS, Despite the existence of important political disagreements between the
12 governments of the United States and Cuba, these differences should not interfere with the
13 right to privacy of a six year old child or his sacred bond with his father; and

14 WHEREAS, any unusual or inappropriate changes to immigration law made by
15 Congress to naturalize a minor without the parents' consent would have the effect of
16 encouraging parents in other nations to risk the lives of their children under the false hope that
17 they might receive special treatment outside standard channels for legal immigration; and

18 WHEREAS, Senators Christopher Dodd, Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Richard
19 Durbin and Patrick Leahy simultaneously introduced resolutions in support of the return of
20 Elian Gonzalez to his father, Juan Gonzalez of Cuba; and

21 WHEREAS, The resolutions were consolidated into Senate Resolution 79 which urges
22 Congress not to interfere with normal immigration proceedings by taking any unusual or
23 inappropriate legislative measures designed to delay the reunification of Elian and Juan
24 Gonzalez and that the INS should proceed with its original decision to return Elian Gonzalez to
25

1 his father, Juan Gonzalez, in Cuba and take all necessary steps to reunify Elian Gonzalez with
2 his father as soon as possible; ; now therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 hereby supports Senate Resolution 79, sponsored by Senators Christopher Dodd, Barbara
5 Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Durbin and Patrick Leahy, urging the return of six year old
6 Elian Gonzalez to his father, Juan Gonzalez of Cuba.

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25 **SUPERVISOR AMMIANO**



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails Resolution

File Number: 000202

Date Passed:

Resolution supporting Senate Resolution 79, sponsored by Senators Christopher Dodd, Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Durbin and Patrick Leahy, urging the return of six year old Elian Gonzalez to his father, Juan Gonzalez of Cuba.


February 7, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 6 - Ammiano, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Leno, Newsom

Absent: 5 - Becerril, Kaufman, Teng, Yaki, Yee

File No. 000202

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on February 7, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

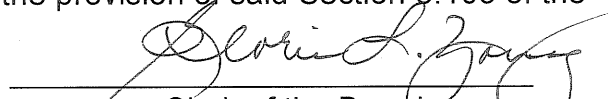

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

Date: February 18, 2000

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, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.


Clerk of the Board

File No.
000202