CONDEMNING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE MEXICAN STATES OF CHIAPAS, OAXACA AND GUERRERO AND THE EXPULSION AND HARASSMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS IN MEXICO.

WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco believe that the quality of life is diminished when peace and justice are not fully present in the world; and

WHEREAS, In order to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, there must be public debate regarding the paramount importance of the rule of law and the need to end injustices and egregious violations of human rights whenever they occur; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco believe that the foreign policy of the United States of America should be grounded upon equality, respect for human rights and the abhorrence of exploitation and all forms of oppression; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco believe that the expenditure and withholding of public funds derived from their taxes constitutes an expression of their civic conscience regarding a subject of legitimate public debate and there can influence the views of their fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco believe that effective advocacy of both public and private points of view is undeniably enhanced by group association, including their association as electors and taxpayers in the City of San Francisco, and

WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco reaffirms that the right of people peaceably to assemble for the purpose of petitioning Congress for a redress of grievances, or for anything else connected with the powers and duties of the national government, is an attribute of American citizenship, and, as such, under the protection of, and guaranteed by the United States; and

Supervisors Ammiano, Brown, Yaki

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, The harassment, kidnapping, torture, imprisonment and murder of members of the indigenous communities in Mexico as well as human rights workers in Mexico continues; and

WHEREAS; United Nations Special Rapporteur, Asma Jahangir stated on February 9, 2000 that the problem of extrajudicial executions and impunity may be more notorious in the Mexican states of Guerrero, Oaxaca and Chiapas; and

WHEREAS; Vigilante style paramilitary groups as well as over 40,000 Mexican soldiers in Chiapas are waging low-intensity warfare and have forced over 20,000 Mayan Indians to flee their communities and to become displaced refugees who are dependent on international charity for survival; and

WHEREAS, These paramilitary groups are known to be armed and trained by the Mexican government which in turn receives aid from the United States; and

WHEREAS; There are still 84 political prisoners in Loxicha, Oaxaca that are still incarcerated with no due process of their rights ; and

WHEREAS; The presence of foreign human rights observers has effectively reduced human rights violations in the state of Chiapas as well as other parts of Mexico; and

WHEREAS; There has not been a single extrajudicial murder in Chiapas since 1994 in indigenous communities where foreign human rights observers have been present; and

WHEREAS; Foreign observers in southern Mexico are present in indigenous communities at the invitation of those communities and local non-government human rights and civic organizations; and

WHEREAS; The Mexican government responded by expelling over 400 foreign human rights observers from Chiapas, 144 of them in 1998 alone, as well as petitioning the exit of hundreds of more, harassing 43 foreigners and expelling two US citizens from Mexico ; and
WHEREAS; Ted Lewis, director of the non-governmental human rights organization, Global Exchange and a veteran of elections observer, was denied entry into Mexico despite having received prior approval of Mexico’s Federal Electoral Commission (IFE); and

WHEREAS; Schools for Chiapas, a humanitarian aid caravan which included several residents of the City of San Francisco were harassed, detained, and threatened with expulsion by the Mexican government; and

WHEREAS; It is the desire of the Board that the City of San Francisco should support and assist its citizens when they are harassed in violation of international human rights law for seeking to provide humanitarian aid; and

WHEREAS; Mexican immigrants and San Francisco residents of Mexican descent number over 68,000 in the City of San Francisco and the Mexican-American community in San Francisco are directly impacted by the human rights violation as well as the political and economic instabilities in Mexico; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco desire to establish the policies herein for the purposes of stimulating public discussion, influencing the views of their fellow Americans and affecting the formulation and implementation of the foreign policy of the United States Congress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco condemns the human rights violations against indigenous communities and expulsions of foreigners in Mexico, especially in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Guerrero; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors request the Clerk of the Board send a copy of this resolution to President Clinton, Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, UN Secretary Kofi Anan and the Mexican embassy in San Francisco.

SUPERVISORS AMMIANO
Resolution condemning human rights violations in the Mexican States of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Guerrero and the expulsion and harassment of international human rights workers in Mexico.

June 5, 2000  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Yaki, Yee
Absent: 1 - Teng
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on June 5, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

JUN 16 2000
Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.