
WHEREAS, Rejection by family, poverty and homelessness often force young women and men to turn to prostitution to survival; and

WHEREAS, These young women and men, who have limited or no employment history and who are often under age, often temporarily turn to prostitution to obtain a room for the night or meal for the day; and

WHEREAS, Without families, these young men and women fall prey to pimps and become entrapped in a hellish cycle of poverty, drug addiction, prostitution and violence; and

WHEREAS, Many prostitute women have children and must rely on prostitution to support their families; and

Supervisors Ammiano, Bierman
WHEREAS, Once entrapped in a life of prostitution, prostitutes experience a never ending cycle of violence including coercion, extortion, rape, battery, robbery, attempted homicide perpetrated against them by pimps, johns, and even law enforcement officials; and

WHEREAS, The majority of prostitutes do not report these illegal and violent acts because they are often dismissed, blamed for incurring such violence because of their profession or in some cases, further abused by law enforcement authorities knowing that the testimony of prostitutes would not considered credible; and

WHEREAS, It is only in cases of extreme violence in which a prostitute feels that her life is imminent danger that a prostitute will risk coming forward and testifying against her perpetrator; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement officials should pursue and prosecute cases of rape, battery, assault, extortion, robbery and attempted homicide against prostitutes with the same rigor as any other citizen; and

WHEREAS, Criminalization of prostitution only forces prostitution further underground and increases incidents of violence against prostitutes; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Task Force on Prostitution was created by the Board of Supervisors in 1996; and

WHEREAS, According 1996 statistics compiled by the Task Force on Prostitution, San Francisco allocates $7.6 million annually to law enforcement officials to prosecute prostitution related cases; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Task Force on Prostitution, the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and the San Francisco Human Rights Commission passed resolutions urging the Board of Supervisors to redirect resources dedicated to prosecuting prostitution related cases to social service programs for prostitutes and their families; and
WHEREAS, The aforementioned City agencies also recommended that law enforcement agencies rigorously prosecute laws against coercion, extortion, battery, rape and other violent crimes, regardless of victim’s status as a sex worker; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby urges the San Francisco Police Department, the Office of the District Attorney and other associated law enforcement agencies to rigorously prosecute laws against coercion, extortion, battery, rape and other violent crimes, regardless of the victim’s status as a sex worker; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Police Department, the Office of the District Attorney and other associated law enforcement agencies to reallocate resources for the investigation and prosecution of prostitutes towards establishing service programs to enable women and their families to leave prostitutes and become independent; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Police Department, the Office of the District Attorney, and associated law enforcement agencies to consider adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the 1996 San Francisco Task Force On Prostitution Report, the 1998 Commission on the Status of Women Report on Violence Against Women in Prostitution in San Francisco as well as the Human Rights Commission recommendations to address and reduce institutional violence and discrimination against prostitutes.

SUPERVISOR AMMIANO
Resolution urging the Police Department, the Office of the District Attorney, and associated law
enforcement agencies to rigorously prosecute laws against coercion, extortion, battery, rape and other
violent crimes, regardless of the victim's status as a sex worker; and further urging aforementioned
law enforcement agencies to reallocate existing resources for the investigation and prosecution of
prostitutes towards service programs to enable women and their families to leave prostitution and
become independent, as well as to consider the adoption and implementation of the recommendations
of the 1996 San Francisco Task Force on Prostitution Report, the 1998 Commission on the Status of
Women Report on Violence Against Women in Prostitution in San Francisco as well as the Human
Rights Commission recommendations to address and reduce institutional violence and discrimination
against prostitutes.

September 18, 2000  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
   Ayes: 9 - Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee
   Absent: 2 - Ammiano, Katz
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on September 18, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

September 29, 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. 001564