Resolution condemning the inflammatory use of negative Chinese stereotypes by news media and calling on news media to institute measure to improve relations with Chinese-Americans.

WHEREAS, China detained US navy crew members after their spy plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet; and

WHEREAS, Constant and pervasive media coverage of the event has caused the matter to become a part of the popular consciousness; and,

WHEREAS, There has been a corresponding increase in prejudicial stereotypes of people of Chinese descent in Bay Area and National media as tensions between the two countries have increased; and,

WHEREAS, Local radio talk show hosts and political cartoonists have ridiculed Chinese people with blatant stereotypes during the last few weeks surrounding these international events; and

WHEREAS, Radio commentators in other parts of the country have gone so far as to call for internment of Chinese-American citizens, a deeply disturbing development, particularly in light of the treatment of Japanese-Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Such stereotypes also recently were used in skits before the American Society of Newspaper Editors at its convention in Washington, D.C., demonstrating that there is still a long way to go before the news media removes the effects of prejudice and discrimination from its newsrooms; and

WHEREAS, The acceptance of and use of such stereotypes by those in the news media creates a hostile work environment for Asian Americans who may be considering

Supervisors McGoldrick, Yee, Leno, Hall, Peskin

*Name of Supervisor/Committee/Department*

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working in such news organizations, making it less likely that Asian Americans will make
careers in such environments, and thus perpetuating the lack of diversity that makes the use
of such stereotypes acceptable; and

WHEREAS, The use and promulgation of such negative stereotyping by the media
about any group has the effect of increasing hate violence committed against individuals who
are members of that group by making such prejudice seem acceptable; and

WHEREAS, The use and promulgation of such negative stereotypes harms not only
Chinese-Americans, not only other Asian Americans, but all Americans, by fostering artificial
barriers of prejudice between people of differing cultural and ethnic backgrounds, thereby
lessening the rich bounty of diversity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco condemns the use of such
negative stereotypes by the news media and others; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco calls for the use of
diversity training for all news media in the Bay Area and nationwide, so that news personnel
can learn to celebrate differences among cultural origins rather than use cultural stereotypes
as a weapon to divide us; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges local and
national news media organizations to increase its affirmative outreach to increase the number
and percentage of Asian-American individuals hired into such organizations; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges local and
national news media organizations to fund public service announcements praising the
contributions of Chinese-American individuals to the greater good of the Bay Area and our
nation.
Resolution condemning the inflammatory use of negative Chinese stereotypes by news media and calling on news media to institute measure to improve relations with Chinese-Americans.

April 23, 2001  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 6 - Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin
Absent: 5 - Ammiano, Leno, Newsom, Sandoval, Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on April 23, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Jean Lum
Acting Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

MAY 04 2001

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.