Resolution urging the California Congressional Delegation representing the City and County of San Francisco to oppose the ongoing effort by Rep. John Culberson (R—Texas) to prevent cities from accepting the Matricula Consular and other identification cards issued by other countries, as valid forms of identification.

WHEREAS, Since 1989 the City and County of San Francisco has been a City of Refuge for immigrants, who make up more than a third of the population; and,

WHEREAS, It is well-known and documented that small businesses in the City depend heavily upon immigrants for daily operations; and,

WHEREAS, The current immigration debate makes immigrants even more vulnerable to hatred, biases, negative stereotyping and racism; and,

WHEREAS, Representative John Culberson (R—Texas) introduced an amendment to the FY’07 Transportation, Treasury Housing, and Urban Development Bill in the Appropriations Committee prohibiting the use of photo identification cards issued by other countries as a valid form of identification; and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors in 2002 unanimously passed the Matricula Ordinance, which amends the San Francisco Administrative Code by adding Chapter 95, encompassing Section 95.1 requiring City departments to accept photo identification cards issued by other countries as valid forms of identification; and

WHEREAS, More than 70 banks in the United States accept photo identification cards such as “la matricula” and “la cedula,” which are issued by other countries, as valid forms of identification

**Supervisors: Sandoval, Daly, Mirkarimi, McGoldrick, Peskin**

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identification for immigrants to open bank accounts, thus protecting immigrants from predatory
financial institutions; and,

WHEREAS, At least 800 police departments across the United States accept photo
identification cards issued by other countries; and

WHEREAS, The lack of an identification card makes immigrants subject to detention at
the discretion of a law enforcement officer; and,

WHEREAS, Detaining immigrants for no other reason than for not having an
identification card diverts police resources from protecting the community from violence,
robberies, and other criminal activities; and,

WHEREAS, In February 2002, San Francisco became the first city in the country to
accept photo identification cards issued by other countries as valid forms of identification; and,

WHEREAS, It is clear that accepting photo identification cards issued by foreign
countries is for identification purposes only; and,

WHEREAS, A photo identification card issued by other countries cannot be used to
obtain citizenship benefits such as work authorization or to obtain public benefits or to vote;
and,

WHEREAS, Consular-issued identification cards have numerous security features to
ensure authenticity and discourage fraud, including a digital picture, serial number, hologram
with special marks, and infrared band to comply with United States standards; and,

WHEREAS, Acceptance of these identification cards fosters cooperation between
police and immigrant communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California Congressional
Delegation representing San Francisco to show their commitment to immigrants by opposing
the ongoing effort by Rep. John Culberson (R—Texas) to prevent cities from accepting the
Matricula Consular and other identification cards issued by other countries, as valid forms of identification, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to the Matricula Ordinance, which requires City departments to accept photo identification cards issued by other countries as valid form of identification, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall send copies of this resolution to the Congressional Delegation representing San Francisco, including House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senator Barbara Boxer, and Senator Dianne Feinstein, and to all City department heads, along with a request to make their staff members aware of the Matricula Ordinance.

**Supervisors: Sandoval, Daly, Mirkarimi, McGoldrick, Peskin**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Resolution urging the California Congressional Delegation representing the City and County of San Francisco to oppose the ongoing effort by Rep. John Culberson (R—Texas) to prevent cities from accepting the Matricula Consular and other identification cards issued by other countries, as valid forms of identification.

June 27, 2006 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 060913 I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on June 27, 2006 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor of Gavin Newsom