Resolution acknowledging immigrant contributions, denouncing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, and supporting comprehensive immigration reform focused on family unity, worker justice, civil rights and a path to legalization.

WHEREAS, Today, more than a third of San Francisco residents are foreign born, coming from countries such as China, the Philippines, Russia, Ireland, Mexico, El Salvador, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Iran and India; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco acknowledges the vast contributions of immigrants to our state and to our city; and

WHEREAS, Immigrants comprise more than one-third of the California labor force. They figure prominently in key economic sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and services; and

WHEREAS, Immigrants are among California’s most productive entrepreneurs, and have created jobs for tens of thousands of Californians. By 2000, immigrant owners of Silicon Valley companies had created 72,839 jobs and generated more than $19.5 billion in sales, according to the California Immigrant Policy Center. Google, Sun Microsystems, eBay, and Yahoo! are all companies that were founded or co-founded by immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Immigrants bring a wealth of language diversity to California’s global affairs and economy. 43% of Californians speak a language other than English at home. Throughout California, immigrants speak more than 250 languages; and

WHEREAS, Despite the many contributions made by immigrants, the U.S. continues to operate with a broken immigration system that prioritizes punitive enforcement measures over family reunification, worker justice, civil rights and legalization, and...
WHEREAS, In 2003, the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Endgame, an enforcement measure to deport the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Workplace raids, in particular, have surged in the last few years. In Fiscal Year 2006-2007, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested 4,000 people in workplace raids. This figure represents an astounding 800 percent increase from 2003, when agents arrested fewer than 500 people; and

WHEREAS, ICE agents increasingly have gone door-to-door looking for immigrants with deportation orders, using the pretext of a warrant for one undocumented immigrant to arrest many others; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, San Francisco experienced the greatest surge in immigration raids, impacting local businesses like Taqueria El Balazo and households in San Francisco’s Visitation Valley, Mission, Bayview, Nob Hill, and Tenderloin neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, ICE raids tear families apart, spread fear, hurt local businesses, and break down communities; and

WHEREAS, Immigrant families typically live in mixed-immigration status households. Studies estimate that between 3.1 million and 5 million children – who are U.S. citizens – are living with at least one undocumented immigrant parent; and

WHEREAS, These children cannot be deported, but having their parents rounded up by immigration authorities leaves them vulnerable to family separation, economic hardship, and psychological trauma; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has a long history of denouncing immigration raids. On May 24, 1999, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 0515-99 declaring San Francisco an Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) Free Zone. On February 27, 2007, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed
Resolution 0085-07 condemning ICE Raids, opposing guest worker programs and supporting legalization programs for immigrants. On June 5, 2007, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 0304-07 urging the federal government to declare a moratorium on ICE raids; and

WHEREAS, On February 14, 2007, Mayor Gavin Newsom issued a statement raising concerns about the public safety implications of immigration raids; and

WHEREAS, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, San Francisco’s Congressional representative, has been critical of ICE raids and their impact on San Francisco families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors denounces ICE raids and their impact on San Francisco communities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress to develop a comprehensive immigration reform bill that prioritizes family unity, worker justice, civil rights and legalization over misguided enforcement strategies; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama and the San Francisco Congressional delegation.
Resolution acknowledging immigrant contributions, denouncing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, and supporting comprehensive immigration reform focused on family unity, worker justice, civil rights and a path to legalization.

April 21, 2009  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
   Ayes: 10 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell
   Excused: 1 - Mirkarimi

File No. 090465

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on April 21, 2009 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

5/1/09
Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board