[Expressing support for the people of Iran who act in good faith to secure their democratic rights to transparent self governance]

Resolution expressing support for the people of Iran who act in good faith to secure their democratic rights to transparent self governance.

WHEREAS, June 13, 2009, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was elected to his second term, with the government reporting that he received 63% of the popular vote, despite the most recent public poll indicating a 54% to 39% lead for his challenger, Hossein Mousavi; and,

WHEREAS, There has been widespread reports of election day irregularities including voting booths closing early due to a reported shortage of ballots and the country's cellphone and SMS (text messaging) networks going down on election day; and,

WHEREAS, The reporting of the election results was highly suspicious with the government claiming that forty million hand-written ballots were counted in the span of twelve hours, and,

WHEREAS, The election results showed near uniform results from virtually all regions of Iran, in stark contrast to the widely varying demographics that all previous Iranian elections have displayed; and,

WHEREAS, The Islamic Republic of Iran is not a democracy, it's a theocracy, and there should be no surprise that election irregularities have taken place since no independent monitors such as the United Nations were allowed to observe the process; and,

WHEREAS, We may never know the true outcome of the presidential election since the current regime under President Ahmadinejad and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have used less-than-transparent forces such as the security services and the

Supervisors Mirkarimi, Chiu, Mar, Alioto-Pier, Chu, Daly, Elsbernd, Dufty, Campos, Maxwell, Avalos
Revolutionary Guard to help administer the election process, while the Interior Ministry counts
the forty million votes casts; and,

WHEREAS, Despite great adversity toward those that demonstrate their freedom of
speech, millions of Iranians have exercised great feats of courage and creativity toward
motivating a new reform movement not seen since the 1978-1979 revolution that toppled the
Pahlavi dynasty; and,

WHEREAS, There is electricity in the air in Iran hundreds of thousands of protesters in
the streets demanding a clean and fair election, and reforms such as women's rights and
freedom of expression; and,

WHEREAS, The Iranian government has cracked down on these democratic protests,
leading to the deaths of at least seven protesters, the arrests of hundreds of opposition
leaders, continued disruptions of Internet, cellphone and SMS service, and the censoring of
both foreign and domestic media; and,

WHEREAS, There are signs that the massive and sustained protests are having an
effect on the Iranian government, including Supreme Leader Khamenei reconsider his initial
endorsement of the election results and directing the Guardian Council to conduct an inquiry
into the alleged voting irregularities, and,

WHEREAS, There are an estimated 400,000 Iranian-Americans living in California,
and nearly double that number in the entire United States; many of these eligible expatriates
voted or tried to vote by absentee ballot in the recent Iranian presidential election; and,

WHEREAS, Similarly to the "citizen diplomacy" strategies deployed between non-
governmental organizations (NGO's) in the United States and the Soviet Union during the
Cold War of the 1970s and 1980s, fertile opportunity exists between the peoples of the
United States and Iran to foster a new grassroots diplomacy aimed at pursing peace between
both nations and democratic reforms in Iran;
WHEREAS, Even a "green revolution" in Iran will not happen overnight, and even the
best democracies have their worst moments as evidenced by the electoral ascendancy of
George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential election; only to fuel passions that led to the
election of President Barack Obama in 2008; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
urges the Iranian government to respect its people's right to peaceful protest, end the violent
repression of non-violent demonstrations and respect the United Nations Universal
Declaration of Human Rights; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors stands in solidarity with the
nonviolent creative protests that seek corrective action to voting irregularities in Iran, and
respectfully calls upon the Guardian Council and Ayatollah to implement electoral procedures
that validate an accountable election process; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors expresses its support for the
people of Iran who act in good faith to secure their democratic rights to transparent self-
governance in the wake of the national election of June 13, 2009.
Resolution expressing support for the people of Iran who act in good faith to secure their democratic rights to transparent self governance.

June 23, 2009  Board of Supervisors — AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Duffy, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell, Mirkarimi

June 23, 2009  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED AS AMENDED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Duffy, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell, Mirkarimi
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED AS AMENDED on June 23, 2009 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

7-2-09
Date Approved

Angela Calvo
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom