[Denouncing the 49ers for Allowing Ray McDonald to Continue Playing While Facing Felony Domestic Violence Charges]

Resolution denouncing the 49ers franchise for allowing Ray McDonald to continue playing during an active investigation for felony domestic violence charges and urging both the 49ers and the NFL to strengthen their policies against domestic violence.

WHEREAS, The San Francisco 49ers have long been known a “first-class” organization, a paragon of equal parts success and class; and

WHEREAS, Though they now play in Santa Clara, the 49ers still bear the name of our City; and

WHEREAS, The actions or inactions of the 49ers’ leadership impact both the franchise and the City; and

WHEREAS, Professional athletes enjoy great fame and possess great influence in our popular culture, particularly among children; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that professional sports, popular culture, and anyone associated with the name San Francisco stand up against domestic violence, lest they injure the people of our city and every other; and

WHEREAS, On Sunday August 31st, 49er defensive end Ray McDonald was arrested and booked into Santa Clara County Jail on felony domestic violence charges, which the Santa Clara District Attorney is currently investigating; and

WHEREAS, Only one week after his arrest, and in spite of the serious criminal charges against him, the 49ers allowed Mr. McDonald to play in their September 7 game against the Dallas Cowboys; and

WHEREAS, While criminal defendants are innocent until proven guilty and prosecutors must prove charges beyond a reasonable doubt, the threshold of accountability should rightly
be lower for decisions about participating in a corporate athletic event for the public's entertainment; and

WHEREAS, 49ers legend Brent Jones recently said, "The logical, thoughtful leadership move would be not to have [Mr. McDonald] play;" and

WHEREAS, In most cases the City of San Francisco places its own employees, such as police officers and firefighters, on paid administrative leave pending the investigation of serious criminal charges related to their job; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald should be held to the same standard as everyone else whose uniform bears the name "San Francisco"; and

WHEREAS, The National Football League (NFL) only suspended Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice for two games after video surfaced of him dragging his unconscious then-fiancée out of a public elevator; and

WHEREAS, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell subsequently apologized for the unjustifiably lax treatment of Mr. Rice; and

WHEREAS, The National Football League specifically, major league sports in general, and American culture must do more to stop domestic violence and protect the victims of abuse; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors denounces the 49ers' decision to allow Ray McDonald to play on Sunday September 7 and urges the 49ers not to repeat the same mistake this Sunday September 14; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the 49ers and the NFL to reevaluate and strengthen their procedures for addressing accusations of criminal activity, particularly domestic violence, levied against their personnel.
Resolution denouncing the 49ers franchise for allowing Ray McDonald to continue playing during an active investigation for felony domestic violence charges and urging both the 49ers and the NFL to strengthen their policies against domestic violence.

September 09, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/9/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

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, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board