[Urging the Pardon of Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru]

Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom to pardon Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru and stop her deportation.

WHEREAS, According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an act of domestic violence occurs every 15 seconds in the United States, with four women losing their lives daily. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States; and

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control 1 in 4 American women will experience domestic violence over the course of their lives; and

WHEREAS, Liyah met her husband, a US citizen, in Ethiopia where he was stationed with the United States military, and later she moved to Northern California to live with him; and

WHEREAS, Once in the US, Liyah experienced increasingly severe and life-threatening physical abuse from her husband; and

WHEREAS, Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru, a Black immigrant from Ethiopia, in an attempt to defend herself, injured her husband, was prosecuted and accepted a plea deal without understanding the potential future consequences to her immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Black women, particularly immigrants, are criminalized, incarcerated and deported at over twice the rate of white women, making Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s story far from exceptional; and

WHEREAS, On November 27, 2018, Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru completed her sentence at Folsom State Prison, and was transferred directly to Yuba County Jail for immigration detention, where she now faces the added punishment of deportation because she is an immigrant; and

Supervisors Ronen; Preston, Mandelman, Mar
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, On March 2, 2019, the national #FreeLiyah campaign was launched to stop Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s deportation, garnering over 75,000 signatures in support for her freedom; and

WHEREAS, Incarcerated people are at a higher risk of infection due in the COVID-19 global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Each day that Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru spends in detention in excess of her original sentence increases her risk of being infected with coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, On March 26, 2019, Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru filed a pardon application to the office of California Governor Gavin Newsom; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom can immediately stop Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s deportation, and A gubernatorial pardon is the only clear path for Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s freedom and reunification with her loved ones and family in San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco supports Aylaliya "Liyah" Birru's safe return to her family and community in San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges California Governor Gavin Newsom to grant a pardon to Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru to stop her deportation; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports all survivors of domestic and sexual violence survivors, regardless of their criminal convictions and immigration status; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom.
File Number: 200408  Date Passed: April 28, 2020

Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom to pardon Aylaliya "Liyah" Birru and stop her deportation.

April 28, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 200408

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/28/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

_______________________________   __________________________
Angela Calvillo       Date
Clerk of the Board

05/08/2020

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

05/08/2020
Date Approved

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 her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

_______________________________   __________________________
Angela Calvillo       Date
Clerk of the Board