Resolution honoring the victims of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) rail yard shooting.

WHEREAS, On Wednesday May 26, 2021, nine victims were killed in a mass shooting at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) rail yard in San Jose, California; and

WHEREAS, Abdolvahab Alaghmandan, better known as Abdi, a VTA employee of 20 years and ATU LOCAL 265 member, and an immigrant who moved to the United States from Tehran, Iran in 1995, was murdered in the shooting; and

WHEREAS, Adrian Balleza, a VTA worker of seven years and ATU Local 265 member who was known for his smile and goofy jokes that made the workplace more fun for everyone, was murdered in the shooting; and

WHEREAS, Alex Ward Fritch, a substation maintainer at the VTA and ATU Local 265 member, who was an optimistic and passionate person who loved Tiki crawls, dirt bikes, Star Wars and his two teenage boys, was murdered in the shooting; and

WHEREAS, Jose Dejesus Hernandez III, a substation maintainer at the VTA, ATU Local 265 member, and the son of a retired VTA worker, who could fix anything, loved his hobbies and lived life with zest, was murdered in the shooting; and

WHEREAS, Lars Kepler Lane, a VTA worker of 20 years and ATU Local 265 member, and husband of 22 years, a father and grandfather who was an avid bicyclist, was murdered in the shooting; and

WHEREAS, Michael Joseph Rudometkin, better known as “Mikey,” an overhead line worker at VTA and ATU Local 265 member, and who loved to golf, ski, and tinker on motorcycles and cars, was murdered in the shooting; and
WHEREAS, Paul Delacruz Megia, a VTA worker of ten years and AFSCME Local 1101 member, and a comic, a loving husband, son and father who bravely saved the lives of his coworkers, was murdered in the shooting; and

WHEREAS, Taptejdeep Singh, a VTA light rail operator and ATU Local 265 member, and an immigrant who moved to California from Punjab, India 17 years ago who bravely saved the lives of his coworkers, was murdered in the shooting; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Michael Romo, a VTA worker of 22 years and ATU Local 265 member, and a husband, father, and grandfather described as “always the life of the party”, a handyman and a brave soul, was murdered in the shooting; and

WHEREAS, The nine lives taken were public employees who were frontline workers that dedicated their careers to serving Santa Clara transit riders; and

WHEREAS, The family and friends of the victims, including many children and seniors, are continuing to experience a mental, emotional, and physical toll from the shooting, and need affordable and continued access to health care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins in mourning the deaths and celebrating the lives of the nine victims killed in the shooting at the VTA rail yard; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors applauds the heroism and compassion of the first responders and emergency medical personnel who responded to the shooting, and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors will continue its commitment to expanding access to health care, particularly mental health services, for victims and families of victims of gun violence and other trauma; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors reaffirms its responsibility to continue working with other Bay Area Counties to target the root causes of gun violence and prevent more people from dying in acts of gun violence.
Resolution honoring the victims of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) rail yard shooting.

June 15, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton
Excused: 1 - Melgar

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/15/2021 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 her 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