

1 [Condemning the Shooting of and Urging Repatriation for Brandon Lee - Urging a
2 Congressional Investigation, Hearing, and the Suspension of United States Aid to the
3 Philippine Military and Police]

4 **Resolution condemning the attempted assassination of San Francisco native and**
5 **United States citizen Brandon Lee in the Philippines by suspected elements of the 54th**
6 **Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; supporting the immediate**
7 **evacuation of Lee from the Philippines and his repatriation to San Francisco to ensure**
8 **his safety and access to adequate medical care; urging our San Francisco Federal**
9 **representatives to initiate a Congressional investigation into the shooting of Lee; and**
10 **urging our San Francisco Federal representatives to support a Congressional hearing**
11 **on consequences of United States tax dollars going to the Philippine military and**
12 **police, and to advocate for suspension of United States aid to the Duterte regime until**
13 **Lee's case is resolved and the perpetrators are brought to justice.**

14
15 WHEREAS, Brandon Lee, a U.S. citizen born and raised in San Francisco, was shot
16 multiple times outside of his home on August 6, 2019, in the Ifugao province in the
17 Philippines; and

18 WHEREAS, Brandon is a 37-year old indigenous and environmental rights advocate,
19 journalist, and volunteer paralegal with the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance in the
20 Philippines, who previously volunteered with the San Francisco Chinese Progressive
21 Association, worked several years with the Stonestown YMCA, and was a student at San
22 Francisco State University where he was also a member of the League of Filipino Students;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, Brandon has chosen to commit his life to advancing indigenous and
2 environmental rights and has been living in the Philippines since 2010 with his wife and
3 daughter and among the indigenous communities in Ifugao; and

4 WHEREAS, Prior to the August 6th attack, since 2015 Brandon had been subjected to
5 repeated threats and harassment by the Philippine military for his advocacy to protect the land
6 and rights of indigenous people in Ifugao province and the surrounding Cordillera region of the
7 Philippines; and

8 WHEREAS, Since August 6th, Brandon has been recovering at the Baguio General
9 Hospital where his brother Aaron Lee and mother Louise Lee, who is a 40 year City & County
10 of San Francisco employee under the Department of Public Health and currently at
11 Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, are providing 24/7 bedside care for him, and
12 where Brandon remains in critical condition with multiple bullets still lodged in his face and
13 back; and

14 WHEREAS, Brandon's experience fits the pattern of harassment, intimidation, and
15 violence documented by human rights watchdogs Alliance for the Advancement of People's
16 Rights ("Karapatan") and Amnesty International and credibly alleged to have been committed
17 by elements of the Philippine military and police against human rights defenders and all
18 people expressing opposition to government policies under the administration of President
19 Rodrigo Duterte; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the Cordillera People's Alliance and the Cordillera Human
21 Rights Alliance, the attack on Brandon was not isolated, but part of simultaneous attacks
22 carried out the same day on both Brandon and seven of his colleagues in the Ifugao Peasant
23 Movement by elements of the 54th Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
24 and
25

1 WHEREAS, The attack on Brandon and his colleagues is a direct result of Philippine
2 President Rodrigo Duterte’s war against human rights advocates, critics of his administration,
3 and alleged drug users, that has claimed nearly 30,000 lives since 2016, with few killings
4 undergoing any investigation and only one resulting in the prosecution of a perpetrator; and

5 WHEREAS, The international NGO Global Witness has declared the Philippines to be
6 the deadliest country in the world for defenders of human rights, the environment and natural
7 resources, with 13 environmentalists, 54 indigenous people, and 207 farmers and peasants
8 extrajudicially killed since Duterte took office in 2016; and

9 WHEREAS, The incidence of violence against environmental and human rights
10 defenders like Brandon has dramatically increased since President Duterte’s invocation of
11 Executive Order 70 in 2018, which operationalizes the Philippine government’s counter-
12 insurgency program that includes arbitrarily and unilaterally targeting activists as “terrorists or
13 supporters of terrorists” to silence legitimate and legal dissent, disallowing the existence of
14 genuine democratic space in Philippine society; and

15 WHEREAS, The stated intent of the policies of President Duterte coupled with the
16 circumstances of the harassment and intimidation which led up to the shooting of Brandon
17 support the assertion that this attack on Brandon was an assassination attempt by the
18 Philippine military or other state agents, the first such assassination attempt on a U.S. citizen
19 under the Duterte regime; and

20 WHEREAS, Brandon’s life continues to be severely threatened as he remains in critical
21 condition in a hospital in the Philippines, where members of the Philippine police and military
22 constantly conduct surveillance on him, unidentified and unauthorized people have made
23 several attempts to enter his hospital room, and the facilities lack adequate technology,
24 equipment and supplies to provide the critical care he needs in order to survive; and
25

1 WHEREAS, Brandon’s family and Philippines-based doctors have determined that
2 Brandon should be transported back to San Francisco where he can urgently receive the
3 medical treatment that he needs in a safe facility where he will not be subject to further threats
4 to his life; and

5 WHEREAS, On April 23, 2019, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a
6 Resolution supporting United States House Resolution No. 233, authored by Congresswoman
7 Jackie Speier, condemning the Government of the Philippines for its role in state-sanctioned
8 extrajudicial killings by police, condemning the Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s drug
9 war that has taken the lives of over 29,000 Filipinos, and urging San Francisco’s Federal
10 representatives to support a congressional hearing on the consequences of U.S. tax dollars
11 being used to fund these activities, and advocating for the U.S. to cut aid to the Duterte
12 regime, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 190423, which is hereby
13 declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby condemns the brutal
15 attempted assassination of Brandon Lee allegedly by elements of Philippine security forces;
16 and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the
18 immediate medical evacuation of Brandon Lee to San Francisco where he can be away from
19 his assailants and receive quality medical care; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the
21 Department of Public Health and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital to support
22 Brandon Lee’s family in bringing him back to San Francisco for the best trauma recovery care;
23 and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges our San
25 Francisco representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator

1 Dianne Feinstein, and Congresswoman Jackie Speier to demand that the U.S. Embassy take
2 immediate action to evacuate Brandon Lee from the Philippines and ensure his safe
3 repatriation back to San Francisco and to a hospital that can provide the urgent medical care
4 that he needs; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges our San
6 Francisco representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator
7 Feinstein, and Congresswoman Jackie Speier to initiate a congressional investigation into the
8 attempted assassination of Brandon Lee; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges our San
10 Francisco representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator
11 Feinstein, and Congresswoman Jackie Speier to support a congressional hearing on
12 consequences of U.S. tax dollars going to the Philippine military and police and to champion a
13 moratorium on U.S. military aid to the Duterte regime; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk
15 of the Board to send a copy of this Resolution to San Francisco representatives Speaker
16 Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator Feinstein, and Congresswoman
17 Jackie Speier.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails

Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 190909

Date Passed: September 10, 2019

Resolution condemning the attempted assassination of San Francisco native and United States citizen Brandon Lee in the Philippines by suspected elements of the 54th Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; supporting the immediate evacuation of Lee from the Philippines and his repatriation to San Francisco to ensure his safety and access to adequate medical care; urging our San Francisco Federal representatives to initiate a Congressional investigation into the shooting of Lee; and urging our San Francisco Federal representatives to support a Congressional hearing on consequences of United States tax dollars going to the Philippine military and police, and to advocate for suspension of United States aid to the Duterte regime until Lee's case is resolved and the perpetrators are brought to justice.

September 10, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee
Absent: 1 - Peskin

File No. 190909

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/10/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

9/20/2019

London N. Breed
Mayor

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.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

9/23/2019
Date