

NHMC Applauds San Francisco Supervisors for Taking a Stand Against Hate Speech in Media

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Supervisors respond to community groups' request to take action against hate speech in media

Washington, D.C. - Today the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved unanimously a resolution urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to conduct a comprehensive investigation on hate speech in media, allowing public participation via public hearings, and for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to update its 1993 report the "Role of Telecommunications in Hate Crimes."

The Supervisors responded to grassroots activists in the Bay Area who have organized to call attention to the alarming increase of patently false and hateful language in media. For the last three years, the Hispanic / Latino Anti-Defamation Coalition SF has organized annual protests held at Clear Channel Communications. Clear Channel was selected as the protest site due to the Corporation's record of promoting some of the most virulent purveyors of hate and intolerance, including Michael Savage and Glenn Beck, who denigrate communities, groups and individuals.

"Hate Speech in media is not only targeted to the Latino community but also to other communities of color, women, the disabled and Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual and Transgender people. It is a cancer in our society and it needs to be addressed. Government needs to recognize, not ignore, the plight of the people. Today, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is the first elected body to take a stand against hate speech in media. We are hopeful that more courageous elected leaders will also take a stand," said Inez Gonzalez, NHMC V.P., Media Policy.

The San Francisco resolution was introduced by Supervisor David Campos and co-sponsored by Supervisors John Avalos, David Chiu, Chris Daly, Bevan Duffy, Eric Mar, Sophie Maxwell and Ross Mirkarimi. The resolution in part states "An investigation on hate speech in the media has the potential of serving the highest interest of free speech." Full information on the resolution may be found at www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/bosagendas/materials/090995.pdf

The City and County of San Francisco prides itself in celebrating diversity in principle, values and practice; the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, reflects these principles, values and practices.

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