

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE  
SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF IRAN TO FREE  
EXPRESSION AND STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WOMEN AND  
PEOPLE OF IRAN**

**WHEREAS**, protests broke out across Iran after a 22-year-old Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, died after being arrested by the morality police for violating the Islamic Hijab dress code for women on September 16, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, protesters have taken to the streets in more than 50 cities, towns and villages across Iran and reports indicate that Iranian security forces have used lethal force in arresting thousands and killing upwards of 130 people during the demonstrations; and

**WHEREAS**, Iranian women are at risk of suffering brutality and death for perceived violations of a dress code imposed on them by others; and

**WHEREAS**, bodily autonomy is a human right whether a woman chooses to wear the hijab or not; and

**WHEREAS**, the Iranian government has also restricted the internet, cutting access to Instagram and WhatsApp to prevent communication, access to information, freedom of expression, to repress the rights of Iranian citizens, journalists, and human rights defenders; and

**WHEREAS**, we call on the Iranian government and security forces to cease their attacks on (and killing of) those protesting Mahsa Amini's death and ask for a thorough and unfettered investigation by a trusted international body into the circumstances of her arrest and cause of death, and full accountability for all those determined to have been responsible.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. This action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), in that adopting a Resolution supporting protestors in Iran does not meet CEQA's definition of a "project," because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and if a "project," is exempt under the "common sense" exception (14 Cal. Code Regs. §15061(b)(3)) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this action may have a significant effect on the environment.

2. That the Council stands with the people of Iran, particularly women, who are engaged in legitimate and peaceful protests against an oppressive and corrupt regime.

3. That the Council condemns those who have routinely and systematically violated human rights, restricted freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, including the continuing closures of media outlets, arrests of journalists, and censorship of expression in online forums.

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