RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
RELATING TO THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN
IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (WHO) has set forth in its constitution the objective of attaining the highest possible level of health for all the people of the world; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan, excluded from participation in the WHO, lacks direct and immediate access to the WHO's up-to-date disease control information, the ability to participate directly and without obstruction in the WHO's international health cooperation forums and programs, and the ability to provide information directly to the WHO on any outbreak of epidemics in Taiwan that could potentially threaten global health; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan, being allowed to participate in the WHO, will allow it to exchange information directly and quickly with both the WHO staff and the governmental and non-governmental organizations that participate in the WHO and this communication will be beneficial for all parts of the world, especially today with the great potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases, such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis, and pandemic influenza; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan and individual Taiwanese experts have in recent years offered to assist a number of WHO-supported international aid and health activities both financially and technically, but have ultimately been unable to assist the WHO due to Taiwan's lack of status within the organization; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan proposes to participate in the WHO as an observer, that is similar to the status that the Holy See, Palestine, the Sovereign Order of Malta, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCRCS) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) already enjoy, in order to put aside political controversies and allow the work of the WHO to proceed for the common good of global health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors urges the WHO to approve the extending of an invitation to Taiwan to participate in the WHO’s annual World Health Assembly meeting as an observer, and in WHO technical meetings, as well as, disease prevention and control mechanisms in a meaningful and appropriate way.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the

Resolution Relating to the Participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization  Page 1 of 2

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Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the County's congressional delegation, the Taiwanese Government and the WHO.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on ______________________ by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors

NOES: Supervisors

ABSENT: Supervisors

_______________________________
Donald F. Gage
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

_______________________________
Phyllis A. Perez
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

_______________________________
Robert Campbell
Assistant County Counsel