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3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2010-53**

4 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING THAT**  
5 **THE ALAMEDA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY PURSUE ALTERNATIVES**  
6 **TO DEATH PENALTY SENTENCES IN ALAMEDA COUNTY**

7 **WHEREAS**, the death penalty is not used by 15 other states; and

8 **WHEREAS**, more than 135 innocent people have been freed from death rows across the U.S.  
9 after spending years in prison for crimes they did not commit – some coming within days or hours of  
10 execution; and

11 **WHEREAS**, there are racial and geographic disparities in the application of the death penalty;  
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, the death penalty has been rejected by a majority of nations and most major  
14 religions; and

15 **WHEREAS** death penalty cases cost Alameda County taxpayers millions more than permanent  
16 imprisonment but do not make us safer, while those resources could be better used to solve more crimes  
17 or for other effective public safety programs; and

18 **WHEREAS** Alameda County has historically sent more people to death row than any other Bay  
19 Area county, even after adjusting for murder rates and population size; and

20 **WHEREAS** the District Attorney in neighboring San Francisco has chosen to pursue alternatives  
21 instead of the death penalty, allowing her to invest resources in proven violence prevention programs; ,  
22 believing that it is time for public safety priorities to change in Alameda County,

23 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** we, the City of Albany, call on:

- 24 1) The District Attorney of Alameda County to stop pursuing the death penalty; and  
25 2) The District Attorney and the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County to invest in solving  
26 homicides, violence prevention, and effective public safety programs.  
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29 Joanne Wile, MAYOR