

1 [Diamond Dave Whitaker Day - February 2, 2016]

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3 **Resolution commending Diamond Dave Whitaker for his contributions to the arts,**
4 **culture, social well-being, and peace, and declaring February 2, 2016, as Diamond Dave**
5 **Whitaker Day in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, Diamond Dave Whitaker left Minnesota for San Francisco in 1957 at age
8 19, seeking a mythical land of all night parties and free love; and

9 WHEREAS, Diamond Dave Whitaker is a San Francisco legend, maestro of the
10 spoken word, and revolutionary rabble rouser who uses language to engage and connect; and

11 WHEREAS, Diamond Dave Whitaker has been described as “Beat before there were
12 Beatniks, hip before there were hippies, punk before punk even happened;” and

13 WHEREAS, Diamond Dave Whitaker has cast a wide net in life: from mentoring a
14 young Bob Dylan in Minnesota to pushing boundaries with the beatniks and hippies in San
15 Francisco to inspiring modern punk and hip-hop musicians, he has found the common thread
16 between many generations of alternative American culture; and

17 WHEREAS, Diamond Dave Whitaker has been a decades long supporter of activist
18 movements for social justice; and

19 WHEREAS, Diamond Dave Whitaker, as a pacifist, has always stood by our veterans -
20 whether from the Vietnam War or any of our subsequent wars because he understands that
21 the mandatory draft of that time and the poverty draft which supplanted it, victimizes the poor
22 and working class of our society; and

23 WHEREAS, Diamond Dave Whitaker has written, spoken, organized, protested and
24 taken direct action in support of the innocent, the downtrodden, the disabled, and all who
25 suffer the unfairness of our social system which is in dire need of change; and

1 WHEREAS, Diamond Dave Whitaker promotes engagement through poetry, which he
2 promotes through the Common Thread radio show on Mutiny Radio in the Mission and by
3 hosting the annual Poems Under the Dome open mic poetry event, commemorating National
4 Poetry Month in San Francisco’s City Hall rotunda; and

5 WHEREAS, As Diamond Dave Whitaker is fond of quoting himself, thus spreading his
6 message of community engagement and empowerment, as embodied in his statement,
7 “Strangers become friends, friends become family, family becomes community, and
8 community on the move, that’s our movement”; and

9 WHEREAS, Diamond Dave Whitaker served as several terms as a Senator on the City
10 College of San Francisco Associated Students Council, and he helped organize student
11 opposition to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges' attempt to
12 revoke City College's accreditation; and

13 WHEREAS, Diamond Dave Whitaker perceives his role as an elder of the community
14 to assist in providing context, lineage, and history to treat each other with greater respect,
15 compassion, and kinship; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco,
17 on the occasion of his 78th birthday, commends Diamond Dave Whitaker for his exceptional
18 contributions to the arts, culture, social well-being, and peace; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
20 Francisco does hereby declare February 2, 2016, as Diamond Dave Whitaker Day.

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