File No. 120562 Board Item No. 30

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Board of Supervisors Meeting **Date: June 5, 2012**

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Completed by: Dena Braley **Date: May 30, 2012**

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages.
The complete document is in the file.

Print Form

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

☐ 1. For reference to Committee: _____
An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.

☒ 2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee.

☐ 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee: _____

☐ 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor _____ inquires"

☐ 5. City Attorney request.

☐ 6. Call File No. _____ from Committee.

☐ 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).

☐ 8. Substitute Legislation File No. _____

☐ 9. Request for Closed Session (attach written motion).

☐ 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole.

☐ 11. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on _____

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission ☐ Ethics Commission

☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a different form.

Sponsor(s):

Campos, Olague, Wiener, Kim

Subject:

Declaring May 22, 2012 as José Julio Sarria Day

The text is listed below or attached:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: David Campos

For Clerk's Use Only:

120562

[José Julio Sarria Day - May 22, 2012]

Resolution honoring José Julio Sarria for his tremendous contributions to San Francisco's political and cultural life, including being the first openly gay candidate for a political elected office in the United States when he ran for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1961, and declaring May 22, 2012, as José Julio Sarria Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria was a groundbreaking and fearless leader of the gay community in San Francisco, founding several advocacy organizations and using entertainment to create political change; and

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria began his theatrical career at the historic Black Cat Bar earning the alias, "The Nightingale of Montgomery Street," for singing his beautiful arias from the opera while he delivered drinks to bar patrons; and

WHEREAS, The Nightingale of Montgomery Street used his performance platform to encourage bar patrons to come out of the closet and live openly and honestly, delivering famous sayings like, "There's nothing wrong with being gay-the crime is getting caught" and "United we stand, divided they catch us one by one," and

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria was forced to abandon his dream of becoming a teacher when he was unjustly arrested for solicitation in a sting operation at St. Francis Hotel; and

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria formed the League for Civil Education in order to run educational programs on the topic of homosexuality and provide support for men being ostracized for being gay or who were caught up in a police raid; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, José Julio Sarria ran for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, becoming the first openly gay man to run for elected office in the United States

and coming in ninth place out of a field of 32 candidates, establishing the fact that a gay voting bloc could wield significant political power in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, José Julio Sarria cofounded the Tavern Guild, the country's first gay business association; and

WHEREAS, In 1963, José Julio Sarria helped found the Society for Individual Rights that sponsored both social and political functions for the gay community as well as helped educate gay men about their rights if arrested or harassed by the police; and

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria assumed the moniker "Her Royal Majesty, Empress of San Francisco, José I, The Widow Norton," in homage to the much celebrated citizen of 19th century San Francisco, Joshua Norton, who had declared himself Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico in 1859; and

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria's assumption of the title of Empress led to the establishment of the Imperial Court System, a network of non-profit charitable organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico that uses drag shows and other functions to raise money for gay charities throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria returns to his home City of San Francisco the week of May 21, 2012, in order to receive a lifetime achievement award from the Harvey Milk Club; and

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria was one of Harvey Milk's early campaign endorsers and May 22, 2012, is Harvey Milk's birthday; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commends José Julio Sarria for his lifetime of activism, cultural and artistic work, and political advocacy on behalf of San Francisco's gay community; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That in recognition of José Julio Sarria's outstanding bravery and beautiful life's work, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors officially declares May 22, 2012, as José Julio Sarria Day in the City and County of San Francisco.