

1 [Domestic Violence Awareness Month - October 2013]

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3 **Resolution declaring October 2013, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City**
4 **and County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, For far too long domestic violence was ignored or treated as a private
7 matter where victims suffered in silence without hope of intervention; and,

8 WHEREAS, In spite of charters, conventions, and other governmental declarations,
9 globally one billion women – one of every three women – will be raped or beaten in her
10 lifetime and one billion mothers, daughters, sisters, partners, and friends will be violated; and,

11 WHEREAS, Fifty percent of the men who have frequently assaulted their partners are
12 reported to also frequently abuse their children; and,

13 WHEREAS, While domestic violence is generally thought to be physical, it can also
14 take an emotional, psychological, or sexual form, in which one person in a relationship will use
15 a pattern of behavior to control the other person, and many victims will not immediately
16 consider this to be “abuse;” and,

17 WHEREAS, Although women are much more likely to be victims of domestic violence,
18 men account for fifteen percent of victims, and therefore any person can be a victim; and,

19 WHEREAS, Children in homes affected by domestic violence are more likely to be
20 abused or neglected, and even without being directly abused, children can often experience
21 emotional or behavioral damage; and

22 WHEREAS, The health-related costs of dealing with rape, physical assault, stalking,
23 and homicide committed by domestic partners exceed \$5.8 billion dollars each year; and,

24 WHEREAS, The California criminal justice system is failing to enforce the state’s
25 domestic violence laws for reasons including: courts failing to issue restraining orders;

1 restraining orders being issued, but not served; prosecuting officers not fully utilizing
2 community-based victims advocates; batterers failing to attend court-ordered programs
3 without repercussions; and a lack of coordination of criminal justice agencies, according to a
4 recent Attorney General's report; and

5 WHEREAS, There has been significant progress made in changing laws, providing
6 support to survivors, and reducing the incidence of domestic violence, but we have not come
7 far enough, and there is more work left to be done; and,

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a strong commitment to ensure human rights and
9 equality for all of its residents through its City Charter in providing for such policies through the
10 Human Rights Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That, in solidarity, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins local
12 residents, our Bay Area neighbors, and world leaders and grassroots activists – women, men,
13 girls, and boys – to rise against violence and join the global call to action against domestic
14 violence; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors stands with all
16 those who have been affected by this crime, recognizes those individuals and groups who
17 have stepped forward to break the cycle of violence, and recommits to putting an end to
18 domestic violence in America; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco will continue to pursue and prioritize
20 policies that have contributed to the reduction of this type of violent crime, ensuring the safety
21 of victims while holding accountable those responsible; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this month, as we renew our efforts to support victims of
23 domestic violence in their time of greatest need, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does
24 hereby declare October 2013, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City and County
25 of San Francisco.