

1 [Proclaiming World Hepatitis Awareness Day – May 19, 2010]

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3 **Resolution proclaiming May 19, 2010, as World Hepatitis Awareness Day in the City**
4 **and County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, over 520 million people worldwide are chronically infected with viral
7 hepatitis, and in the U.S. over 5 million people are infected with hepatitis C and 1.5 million
8 with hepatitis B, and in California 450,000 are chronically infected with hepatitis C and
9 280,000 with hepatitis B, and in San Francisco there are approximately 25,000 people with
10 hepatitis B; and 12,000 people infected with hepatitis C; and

11 WHEREAS, hepatitis can lead to liver disease, cirrhosis, liver cancer, liver failure and
12 death, and because liver cancer from hepatitis B & C kills more people in the San Francisco
13 Bay Area than anywhere in the country, according to the Center on Disease Control and
14 Prevention; and

15 WHEREAS, hepatitis C infects 1 in every 50 people across the socioeconomic
16 spectrum but disproportionately affects African-Americans, Latinos, Veterans, parolees
17 returning to the community, injection drug users, and low-income residents, and is the leading
18 cause of death in people with HIV, with 30% of people living with HIV co-infected with
19 hepatitis C; and hepatitis B infection is present in 1 in 10 of San Francisco's Asian and Pacific
20 Islander residents; and

21 WHEREAS, many persons at risk or infected by these conditions are neither tested nor
22 treated due to lack of public awareness about hepatitis and lack of access to care, and thus
23 cannot promote their liver's health or prevent the unknowing spread of viral hepatitis; and
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1 WHEREAS, hepatitis awareness education campaigns, accessible screening for
2 hepatitis C and hepatitis B, along with appropriate care, can reduce the damage from
3 hepatitis C and B viral infection to individuals and to our community, financially as well as
4 physically and emotionally; and

5 WHEREAS, in recognition of the ongoing work of the Mayor’s Hepatitis C Task Force
6 and the San Francisco Hep B Free Campaign to address these public health concerns with
7 recommendations and activities so that San Franciscans can know their viral hepatitis status
8 and take appropriate health measures; now

9 THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby
10 declares May 19, 2010, as World Hepatitis Awareness Day in San Francisco.
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