

1 [Commemorating the ARC/AIDS Vigil]

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3 **Resolution recognizing the historic significance of the ARC/AIDS Vigil and encouraging**
4 **the City and County of San Francisco to place a plaque on or near the site of the**
5 **ARC/AIDS Vigil.**

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7 WHEREAS, On October 27, 1985, two HIV-positive gay men chained themselves to
8 the doors of the old federal building located at 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, to
9 protest the United States government’s inaction in the face of the deadly AIDS epidemic; and,

10 WHEREAS, These two brave HIV-positive gay men were soon joined by a dedicated
11 group of volunteers who through their efforts began what is officially known as the “ARC
12 (AIDS Related Complex)/AIDS Vigil”, a decade-long demonstration that brought needed
13 awareness about the AIDS epidemic and our federal government’s failure to respond to it;
14 and,

15 WHEREAS, These courageous men and women braved the elements, condemnation
16 from passersby, and repeated efforts to remove them from 50 UN Plaza; and,

17 WHEREAS, Numerous San Franciscans, including elected officials such as then
18 Supervisors Harry Britt and Nancy Walker, participated in the vigil by chaining themselves to
19 the old federal building and even being arrested, thereby bringing more attention to the
20 demonstration; and,

21 WHEREAS, participants of the vigil presented four demands to our federal
22 government, including the need to publicly recognize AIDS, condemn AIDS-related
23 discrimination, allow physicians to prescribe medicines and treatments to AIDS patients, and
24 begin a “Manhattan Project” type effort to fight the AIDS epidemic; and,

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1 WHEREAS, The ARC/AIDS Vigil was a turning point in the fight against the AIDS
2 epidemic, helping to awaken the conscience of the City and push for action by our federal
3 government; and,

4 WHEREAS, The ARC/AIDS Vigil ended in December 1995; and,

5 WHEREAS, It is critical that we as a City preserve our history and do not forget the
6 significance of the demonstration; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby officially recognizes
8 the historic significance of the ARC/AIDS Vigil; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby honors
10 the contributions of all the brave men and women who participated in the ARC/AIDS Vigil;
11 and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby
13 commemorates the memory and contributions of these brave men and women and calls upon
14 the government of the City and County of San Francisco to place a plaque on or near the site
15 of the ARC/AIDS Vigil so that we and future generations never forget what happened during
16 the fateful period of October 1985 through December 1995; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon the
18 government of the City and County of San Francisco to take any other steps that would be
19 appropriate and necessary to commemorate the ARC/AIDS Vigil.

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