

1 [National Mental Health Awareness Month - May]

2

3 **Resolution recognizing and supporting efforts to bring more resources to mental**  
4 **health services locally and declaring May as National Mental Health Awareness Month**  
5 **in the City and County of San Francisco.**

6

7 WHEREAS, One in every five adults in the United States experience mental illness;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Nearly 26% of homeless adults staying in shelters live with a serious  
10 mental illness and an estimated 46% live with severe mental illness and/or substance use  
11 disorders; and

12 WHEREAS, Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States and the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
13 leading cause of death in youth ages 10-24; and

14 WHEREAS, Nearly ninety-percent of those who died of suicide have an underlying  
15 mental illness; and

16 WHEREAS, Children and youth are adversely affected by mental illness with one in  
17 five, between the ages of 13-18, who have or will have a serious mental illness; and

18 WHEREAS, Mental health is preventable and treatable with early care and intervention;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, There is still a prevalent stigma associated with mental health that makes  
21 it difficult for those affected to seek help; and

22 WHEREAS, The economic burden of mental illness costs the United States  
23 \$193,200,000,000 in lost earnings per year; and

24 WHEREAS, Mental health is often less prioritized and less accessible in health care  
25 systems; and

1           WHEREAS, African Americans and Latinos access mental health services at about  
2 one-half the rate of Caucasian Americans and Asian Americans at about one-third the rate;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, San Francisco has many dedicated community-based providers that offer  
5 culturally competent and bilingual resources to serve at-risk communities of color; and

6           WHEREAS, Raising awareness about mental health and removing the stigma  
7 encourages a safe environment for people to seek treatment; and

8           WHEREAS, President Barack Obama proclaimed May National Mental Health  
9 Awareness Month in 2013 to bring nationwide attention to this significant issue; and now,  
10 therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes the efforts to bring  
12 awareness to mental health and to commit more resources to accessible services; and, be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the month of May be known and recognized as National  
14 Mental Health Awareness Month in the City and County of San Francisco.

15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25