

1 [Celebrating Governor Brown’s Appointment of Julie Su, California Labor Commission]  
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3 **Resolution commending Governor Brown for appointing Julie Su as Chief of the**  
4 **California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, also known as the California**  
5 **Labor Commissioner, and encouraging San Francisco’s Office of Labor Standards**  
6 **Enforcement to collaborate with Commissioner Su to protect the labor and**  
7 **employment rights of low-wage workers in San Francisco.**  
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10 WHEREAS, The mission of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement is to  
11 vigorously enforce minimum labor standards in order to ensure employees are not required or  
12 permitted to work under substandard unlawful conditions, and to protect employers who  
13 comply with the law from those who attempt to gain competitive advantage at the expense of  
14 their workers by failing to comply with minimum labor standards; and

15 WHEREAS, the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement adjudicates wage claims  
16 including claims for unpaid minimum and overtime wages, investigates discrimination and  
17 public works complaints, and enforces labor law and the Industrial Welfare Commission wage  
18 orders; and,

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a local Office of Labor Standards Enforcement that  
20 has a similar mission and function as the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement,  
21 which is to enforce San Francisco’s labor and employment laws including San Francisco’s  
22 minimum wage, paid sick leave, and the employer spending requirement of the San  
23 Francisco Health Care Security Ordinance; and,

24 WHEREAS, Non-payment or underpayment of minimum wages and overtime is an  
25 enormous problem nationally, in California, and locally with recent studies showing that more

1 than 3 million workers are paid below the minimum wage and another 3 million workers are  
2 misclassified as independent contractors and therefore denied their rights to minimum wage,  
3 overtime pay, meal and rest breaks, and the employer's share of their payroll taxes; and,

4 WHEREAS, The Economic Policy Foundation, a business-funded think tank, estimates  
5 that employers steal \$19 billion in unpaid overtime alone each year; and,

6 WHEREAS, Wage theft hits the State's lowest wage workers the hardest and  
7 workforces that are dominated by immigrant labor, including domestic workers, day laborers,  
8 restaurant workers, farm workers and garment workers; and,

9 WHEREAS, Combating the epidemic of wage theft in California requires leadership  
10 with a unique set of talents, someone who is not only skilled and courageous enough to  
11 tackle a deeply entrenched systemic problem but who also has the tact, empathy, language  
12 skills, and cultural competency to work with and reach out to vulnerable populations of  
13 workers; and,

14 WHEREAS, Julie Su is the daughter of Chinese immigrants; and,

15 WHEREAS, Julie Su earned an undergraduate degree from Stanford University, a law  
16 degree from Harvard Law School and was the recipient of the Reebok International Human  
17 Rights Award in 2006 and of a MacArthur "Genius" Grant in 2001; and,

18 WHEREAS, Julie Su cofounded Sweatshop Watch, an innovative organization that  
19 fought for low-wage workers nationally and internationally, focused on eliminating sweatshop  
20 exploitation in California's garment industry and helped pass the strongest anti-sweatshop  
21 legislation in the country, California's Assembly Bill 633; and,

22 WHEREAS, Julie Su joined the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in 1994 on a  
23 Skadden Fellowship and served as lead counsel in 1995 in a ground-breaking federal lawsuit  
24 to hold brand name garment manufacturers and retailers liable for holding Thai and Latino  
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1 garment workers behind barbed wire for years in an apartment complex in El Monte,  
2 California and utilizing them as slave labor; and,

3 WHEREAS, Julie Su served for years as Litigation Director for the Asian Pacific  
4 American Legal Center, and in that capacity litigated numerous cases on behalf of immigrants  
5 and low-wage workers and to end discrimination and segregation in education and the  
6 workplace; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
8 hereby commends Governor Brown and celebrates his appointment of Julie Su as Chief of  
9 the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
11 Francisco encourages the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement to collaborate with  
12 Commissioner Su to protect the labor and employment rights of low-wage workers in San  
13 Francisco; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a  
15 copy of this resolution to Governor Brown, Commissioner Su, and Donna Levitt, Division  
16 Manager of San Francisco's Office of Labor Standards Enforcement.

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