1   [Proclaiming January 15, 2005, Paul Boden Day in San Francisco.]

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3   **Resolution proclaiming January 15, 2005 as Paul Boden Day.**

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5   WHEREAS, Paul Boden began his career as a homeless person and soon became an

6   advocate for other homeless people while staying and volunteering at Central City Hospitality

7   House (CCH) and acting as a volunteer in 1981; and,

8   WHEREAS, Paul Boden advocated for and obtained the first formal declaration from

9   the City of San Francisco forbidding owners of tourist hotels to "double people up" in tiny

10   rooms; and,

11   WHEREAS, In 1987, Mr. Boden founded the Coalition on Homelessness (COH) as an

12   organization of homeless people, providers, and advocates to act as a voice of and for

13   homeless people; and,

14   WHEREAS, In 1990, Mr. Boden co-drafted the document "Transitional Housing - the

15   Next Step" which led to the creation of the Community Housing Partnership (CHP), so that

16   homeless people could have permanent, affordable housing with on-site supportive services

17   and employment opportunities instead of doing the "28 day shuffle"; and,

18   WHEREAS, Mr. Boden served as Board President of the CHP for 10 years, guiding the

19   organization through its early years as a new organization; and,

20   WHEREAS, For over 17 years, Paul Boden led the COH through many victories such

21   as the creation of the CHP, which together with other organizations resulted in hundreds of

22   units of housing run by and for homeless people, the Treatment on Demand campaign which

23   resulted in thousands of new substance abuse treatment slots, and the Shelter Grievance

24   Project, which made San Francisco the first place in the country where shelter residents had

25   the right to independent due process before being put out of the shelter system; and,

1   WHEREAS, In 1990, Mr. Boden made his first appearance on national television on

2   "Nightline" with Ted Koppel, learning the value of speaking in "sound bites" that he used well

3   ever since on countless national and local television, radio and newspaper media; and,

4   WHEREAS, In 1995, Mr. Boden envisioned and helped to create a new type of training

5   program called HOMEWORC that based its training on teaching line staff in service

6   organizations the skills they needed to move up into management positions and "break the

7   glass ceiling"; and,

8   WHEREAS, Mr. Boden helped stave off massive cuts to social programs year after

9   year; ensured homeless families were recognized when homelessness was being discussed

10   and infused such reforms into the Housing Authority as filling vacant units, violence transfers,

11   homeless preferences, community liaison an revolving fund; and,

12   WHEREAS, As Coalition Director, he helped initiate the creation of annual reports on

13   the mental health system, the shelter system, the substance abuse treatment system, welfare

14   system and more; and,

15   WHEREAS, Mr. Boden spent countless hours on every official homeless plan to come

16   out of San Francisco including Beyond Shelter, Continuum of Care Plan (1996, 2001) and the

17   Ten Year Plan of 2004; and,

18   WHEREAS, Paul Boden took a leadership role in ensuring a quality alternative

19   newspaper, the Street Sheet, that allows the writing, artwork, and poetry of disenfranchised

20   homeless people to enter the discourse of the San Francisco population; and,

21   WHEREAS, Mr. Boden played a visionary and leadership role in strengthening many

22   community organizations as a Board member, such as Central City Hospitality House and

23   CHP; and,

24   WHEREAS, Mr. Boden worked tirelessly for over ten years, through 4 administrations

25   to win the passage of a Shelter Monitoring Committee; and

1   WHEREAS, Paul Boden spearheaded efforts to fill gaps in the homeless service

2   system by fighting for the creation of such programs as A Women's Place, McMillan Drop-In

3   Center, Oshun Center, and the Mission Resource Center; and,

4   WHEREAS, Mr. Boden worked to ensure homeless people had a strong, loud, clear

5   and articulate voice in the design and monitoring of homeless policies and programs in San

6   Francisco and across the country; and,

7   WHEREAS, Beginning in 1994, Paul Boden served as member of the Board of

8   Directors for 8 years of the National Coalition for the Homeless; he helped restructure the

9   organization, stave off cuts to federal homeless and housing programs, introduce federal

10   legislation affecting homeless people, and draft the "Bring America Home Act" that is currently

11   making its way through Congress; and,

12   WHEREAS, Paul Boden helped countless homeless people fight through their own

13   struggle to become fighters on their own; and,

14   WHEREAS, Mr. Boden is a person whose opinions and advice are sought by even

15   those who oppose him - mayors, business people, city staff and supervisors - because of his

16   ability to understand the many dimensions of a complex, political situation; and,

17   WHEREAS, Paul Boden is a voice of practicality that has been a symbolic face of

18   homeless advocacy for over 20 years; and,

19   WHEREAS, Mr. Boden has never given up fighting in a passionate, uncompromising,

20   selfless and unique manner for the rights of the poorest, most disenfranchised and vulnerable

21   members of our society-and never will; and,

22   WHEREAS, Paul Boden will leave COH on January 15th, 2005 to focus on improving

23   homeless policies at the federal level; now, therefore, be it

24   RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby declares January 15th, 2005 as

25   "Paul Boden Day " in the City and County of San Francisco.