

1 [Encouraging All 18 to 44 Year Olds to Register as Bone Marrow Donors]

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3 **Resolution encouraging all members of the public aged 18 to 44 to register as bone**
4 **marrow donors and help close the racial gap in cancer treatment so people of all**
5 **ethnicities have a second chance to live through a marrow transplant.**
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7 WHEREAS, Every three minutes someone in America is diagnosed with a blood
8 cancer; and

9 WHEREAS, Bone marrow transplant is the only proven treatment and long term
10 survival option for over 70 blood cancers; and

11 WHEREAS, 70% of patients do not have a fully matched donor in their family and must
12 depend on the kindness of a stranger to save their life; and

13 WHEREAS, The best transplant outcomes happen when a patient’s human leukocyte
14 antigen (HLA, or tissue type) and the HLA of a registered donor closely match; and

15 WHEREAS, Patients are more likely to match with a donor who shares their ethnic
16 background; and

17 WHEREAS, Minority ethnicities, including Asian Americans, Latinos, and African
18 Americans, are dramatically underrepresented in the donor registry, and as a result, a
19 patient’s likelihood of matching with a donor ranges from 66 to 97% depending merely on their
20 ethnic background; and

21 WHEREAS, A person’s ethnicity should not determine whether they live or die; and

22 WHEREAS, There is a critical need for more minorities to register as donors; and

23 WHEREAS, As a major Asian American population center, San Francisco should lead
24 the way in registering Asian American donors and improving health outcomes for Asian
25 American patients; and

1 WHEREAS, The Asian American Donor Program (AADP), a community non-profit
2 dedicated to increasing potential stem cell donors has registered more than 275,000 Asian
3 Americans on the donor registry; and

4 WHEREAS, Registering as a donor takes only a few minutes; and

5 WHEREAS, The most common method of donation is via a painless peripheral blood
6 stem cell donation; and

7 WHEREAS, There is no better gift than the gift of life; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins with AADP in
9 encouraging all members of the public aged 18 to 44, particularly Asian Americans, Latinos,
10 and African Americans, to register as bone marrow donors and help close the racial gap in
11 cancer treatment so people of all ethnicities have a second chance to live through a marrow
12 transplant.