

1 [African American Cultural and Entertainment Center.]

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Resolution welcoming the African American Cultural and Entertainment Center (AACEC) to San Francisco and urging the San Francisco Port Commission to negotiate with the AACEC development team.

WHEREAS, Americans of African origin have made historic contributions to the development of San Francisco and the entire nation and have played a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every aspect of history and in our lives today; and

WHEREAS, African Americans helped to build and rebuild the City of San Francisco, fought for rights of racial equality that ultimately benefited all groups, and enriched the City's culture; and,

WHEREAS, In the 1940's San Francisco was a beacon that drew thousands of African Americans from southern states such as Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas to work in shipbuilding industries in support of the war efforts; and,

WHEREAS, African Americans have no major economic or commercial presence in San Francisco, nor does San Francisco have any major venues that recognize or celebrate African American culture nor is no development in the United States solely dedicated to the global contributions and experiences of African Americans; and,

WHEREAS, A major cultural and entertainment center would serve as an example to young people of all races, build identity and self-esteem within the African American community, educate all people about the rich history of the struggles for equality, and celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans; and,

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco is known for its celebration of the creativity and diversity of
2 all cultures, people, and lifestyles and for activities that support the growth of many cultural
3 and art institutions; and,

4 WHEREAS, The AACEC would be a unique enterprise and the first major center
5 anywhere to honor and celebrate African Americans worldwide; and,

6 WHEREAS, The AACEC development team, comprised of Fortis Advisors and Primus
7 Infrastructure, is preparing to build a major facility in San Francisco and has identified San
8 Francisco's historic Pier 48 at the foot of the Bayview / Hunters Point community, as a
9 potential site for a facility that showcases African American achievements in history and
10 influences on American culture, and helps visitors to better understand African American
11 historical and cultural experiences; and,

12 WHEREAS, The AACEC would honor the historic achievements of African-Americans
13 in the maritime industry, including the shipbuilders, longshoremen, and other men and women
14 that contributed to wartime activities; and,

15 WHEREAS, The AACEC would offer a historic and cultural center, while revitalizing
16 the San Francisco nightlife with premier entertainment venues; and,

17 WHEREAS, The use of Pier 48 as the AACEC fulfills the goals of the Public Trust and
18 is consistent with the San Francisco Waterfront Plan by preserving the historic pier shed
19 buildings, retrofitting the pier to make it safe and restore it to full public use, and providing
20 new, universal access to the waterfront; and,

21 WHEREAS, The AACEC predicts that the Center at Pier 48 would attract thousands of
22 visitors each year and generate millions of dollars in revenue to the San Francisco economy;
23 now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors welcomes the AACEC to
25 San Francisco, recognizes that the Center will be a unique and important resource for Bay

1 Area residents and all people, and eagerly anticipates being the home of the first African
2 American Cultural and Entertainment Center in the history of the United States; and be it;

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby endorses the possible
4 use of Port property for the AACEC and recognize the unique benefits the Center will provide
5 including historic preservation, cultural and economic benefits; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Port
7 Commission to negotiate with the AACEC development team, developing mutually agreeable
8 terms and conditions including performance benchmarks for the Center; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages all City officials to
10 support the steps necessary for building a major new facility of the AACEC in San Francisco.

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