

1 [Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Recognizing the
2 Work of Disability Rights Leaders]

3 **Resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the**
4 **work of disability rights leaders and the San Francisco Office on Disability and**
5 **Accessibility, and the opening of the San Francisco Disability Cultural Center.**
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7 WHEREAS, July 26, 2025, marks the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Americans
8 with Disabilities Act (ADA), a landmark civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against
9 individuals with disabilities and guarantees equal access to public life; and

10 WHEREAS, The ADA has transformed the social and physical landscape of the United
11 States (U.S.), promoting independence, equity, and inclusion for over 61 million Americans
12 with disabilities; and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a proud and rich history of being a welcoming and
14 inclusive city for all, championing civil rights, disability rights, and social justice movements,
15 including the historic Section 504 Sit-In of 1977 at the San Francisco Federal Building by a
16 group of people with disabilities and their allies—the longest nonviolent occupation of a
17 federal building in U.S. history—which galvanized the national disability rights movement and
18 led to the implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; and

19 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is celebrating the grand opening of
20 the San Francisco Disability Cultural Center on July 17, 2025, the nation's first municipally
21 funded disability center and a first-of-its-kind space dedicated to honoring the artistic, cultural,
22 and civic contributions of the disability community; and

23 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Office on Disability and Accessibility (ODA), formerly
24 the Mayor's Office on Disability, has been instrumental in leading citywide efforts to ensure
25

1 access to infrastructure, services, digital spaces, and civic engagement for residents and
2 visitors with disabilities; and

3 WHEREAS, ODA has joined the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS), a
4 move that will allow both organizations to combine their expertise and support greater
5 alignment in working towards an inclusive City that is accessible for people with disabilities;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco disability rights community continues to be inspired by
8 the visionary leadership and pioneering work of women and feminists with disabilities,
9 including groundbreaking advocates such as the late Judith ("Judy") Heumann, Debby
10 Kaplan, Alice Wong, Sascha Bittner, the late Patty Berne, and many others whose efforts
11 have expanded opportunity, equity, and justice across generations; and

12 WHEREAS, Judy Heumann, a tireless advocate who is often called the mother of the
13 disability rights movement, was instrumental in founding key organizations such as Disabled
14 In Action and the World Institute on Disability, led the historic 504 Sit-In to secure rights under
15 the Rehabilitation Act, served as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and
16 Rehabilitative Services under President Clinton, and throughout her life championed global
17 disability rights initiatives that helped pave the way for the ADA and the United Nations (UN)
18 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and

19 WHEREAS, Debby Kaplan, a pioneering disability rights attorney and activist, co-
20 founded the Disabled Women's Coalition at University of California (UC) Berkeley, founded
21 the Disability Rights Center with Ralph Nader, served as an attorney for the Disability Rights
22 Education and Defense Fund (DREDF), and led the World Institute on Disability, and now
23 serves as Deputy Director of ODA, overseeing programmatic accessibility compliance,
24 effective communication, and digital access; and

1 WHEREAS, Alice Wong, a prominent disability rights activist, writer, and community
2 organizer based in San Francisco, is the founder and director of the Disability Visibility
3 Project, an online community fostering and sharing disability media and culture; served on the
4 National Council on Disability from 2013 to 2015; made history in 2015 by attending a White
5 House event via telepresence robot; and continues to amplify disabled voices and advance
6 disability justice through her writing, public speaking, and activism, including publishing
7 "Disability Intimacy", "Disability Visibility", and "Year of the Tiger: An Activist's Life"; and

8 WHEREAS, Sascha Bittner, nationally recognized disability rights leader, whose
9 decades of advocacy have advanced accessible transportation, housing, and home- and
10 community-based care; through her work with Senior and Disability Action, Hand in Hand, and
11 the In-Home Support Services (IHSS) Consumer Alliance, and in her role as a Commissioner
12 on the San Francisco Disability and Aging Services Commission, has championed equity,
13 independence, and dignity for people with disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, Patty Berne, co-founder and Executive Director of Sins Invalid, was a
15 visionary leader in the disability justice movement, whose work amplified the voices of
16 disabled artists of color and queer and gender non-conforming people with disabilities, and
17 who helped to define disability justice as a cultural and political framework centering
18 intersectionality, access, and collective liberation; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes and
20 celebrates the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors celebrates the opening of the
22 San Francisco Disability Cultural Center as a landmark achievement in promoting disability
23 arts, culture, and civic engagement; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and commends the
2 work of the San Francisco Office on Disability and Accessibility for its continued leadership in
3 advancing equity, access, and inclusion across the City; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors expresses its deepest
5 appreciation to the many women and feminist leaders with disabilities, including the late Judy
6 Heumann, the late Patty Berne, Debby Kaplan, Alice Wong, Sascha Bittner, and countless
7 others who have fought tirelessly to ensure the full and equal participation of people with
8 disabilities in all aspects of life.