

1 [Commending Big Brothers Big Sisters]

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3 **Resolution commending Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBS), an award-**
4 **winning youth organization that allows gay and lesbian volunteers the equal**
5 **opportunity to serve as one-on-one mentors to children.**

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7 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America is devoted to helping children from
8 single-parent homes by providing them with long-term one-on-one mentorships with caring
9 adults; and

10 WHEREAS, These mentorships are proven to promote youths' self-esteem, expand
11 their awareness of life's opportunities and provides them with long-term guidance and
12 support; and

13 WHEREAS, For more than 25 years, Big Brothers and Big Sisters has endorsed a non-
14 discrimination policy which includes sexual orientation, race, religion and ethnicity; and

15 WHEREAS, In July 2002, the organization adopted a mandatory policy of including gay
16 and lesbian volunteers and told all 490 local affiliates to give openly gay and lesbian
17 volunteers an equal chance to service as mentors; and

18 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters has reaffirmed its commitment to gay and
19 lesbians despite public pressure from conservative Christian groups who have asked BBBS
20 donors to cease their support; and

21 WHEREAS, Every week over 400 men and women of San Francisco and the
22 Peninsula share their lives with their Little Brothers and Little Sisters; and

23 WHEREAS, The mentors involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Francisco & the
24 Peninsula who identify as gay and lesbian can continue to enrich the lives of underprivileged
25 youth; now, therefore be it,

Supervisor Leno

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
2 hereby commends Big Brothers Big Sisters of America for its commitment to equal rights and
3 opportunities for gay and lesbian men and women; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for the City and
5 County of San Francisco send copies of this resolution to Attn: Mr. Bill Odell, President, Big
6 Brothers Big Sisters, 870 Market Street, Suite 928, San Francisco, CA 94102 and to Attn: Ms.
7 Judy Verdenburgh, President and CEO, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, National Office,
8 230 North 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

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