

1 [Commending Reese Butler and the Kristin Brooks Hope Center]
2 **COMMENDING REESE BUTLER FOR ESTABLISHING THE KRISTIN BROOKS HOPE**
3 **CENTER, THE NATION'S FIRST 24 HOUR NATIONWIDE SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE**
4 **AND FURTHER PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 12, 1999 AS "REASON TO LIVE DAY" IN**
5 **THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO.**

6 WHEREAS, In April of 1998, Kristin Brooks Rossell's baby was stillborn and she was
7 overwhelmed with post-partum depression; and

8 WHEREAS, Battling bouts of manic depression for 10 years, doctors prescribed anti-
9 depressant drugs to Kristin which caused side effects such as anxiety, insomnia and
10 confusion; and

11 WHEREAS, Ten days later at the hospital, at age 28, Kristin hanged herself; and

12 WHEREAS, In response to the absence of a national suicide prevention hotline, Reese
13 Butler; Kristin's husband, established the Kristin Brooks Hope Center and created the nation's
14 first nationwide suicide hotline based in Vallejo, California; and

15 WHEREAS, Since its inception in May of 1999, the Hope Center fields approximately
16 100 calls per day and links callers to the closest local crisis hotline or suicide prevention center
17 as well providing invaluable resource referrals and information; and

18 WHEREAS, The Hope Center is working towards linking all 58 California counties by
19 the year 2000; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1997, 17.5 million Americans suffered from major depression which is
21 one of the main symptoms leading to suicide and which costs the over \$44 billion annually;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, An estimated 30,000 Americans suicide annually and is the third leading
24 cause of death for teenagers between the ages of 15 to 24 and is the sixth leading cause of
25 death amongst children and adolescents between the ages of 5 and 14 years of age; and

Supervisors Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng,
Yaki, Yee

1 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, between 1987 and 1996, 137,000 San Franciscans
2 committed suicide, outnumbering homicides every year between 1987 and 1996 ; and

3 WHEREAS, Males accounted for 75% of all suicides with the highest number of
4 suicides occurring amongst adults between the ages of 35 to 44 while seniors over 75 years of
5 age accounted for the highest rates of suicides; and

6 WHEREAS, National studies also indicate that amongst youth between the ages of 15
7 to 24 who attempted suicide, over 30% self identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of San Franciscans that suicide be recognized as
10 social problem rather than being stigmatized and avoided as a topic of discussion

11 WHEREAS, It is also in the best interest of San Franciscans that the City should
12 expend adequate and appropriate resources to mitigate this problem as well support
13 organizations that provide suicide prevention and counseling services; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
15 does hereby commend the Kristin Brooks Hope Center for providing a 24 hour national suicide
16 prevention hotline and rescuing those who need help from despair and death as well infusing
17 them with hope, the courage to live and the practical resources leading to self-control and self
18 mastery; and let it be

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby commend Reese Butler
20 his courage and compassion for turning a personal tragedy into a personal victory and victor
21 for his fellow Americans by establishing the Kristin Brooks Hope Center, creating the nation's
22 first 24 hour nationwide suicide prevention hotline and organizing the "Reason to Live Day"
23 benefit concert; and let it be

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors do hereby proclaim November
2 12, 1999 as "Reason to Live Day" in the City and County of San Francisco.
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25 **SUPERVISOR AMMIANO**



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
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Tails

Resolution

File Number: 992059

Date Passed:

Resolution commending Reese Butler for establishing the Kristin Brooks Hope Center, the nation's first 24 hour nationwide suicide prevention hotline and further proclaiming November 12, 1999 as "Reason to Live Day" in the City and County of San Francisco.

November 8, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

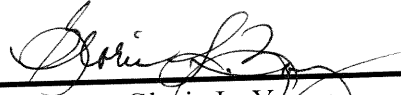
Ayes: 9 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom,

Yee

Absent: 2 - Teng, Yaki

File No. 992059

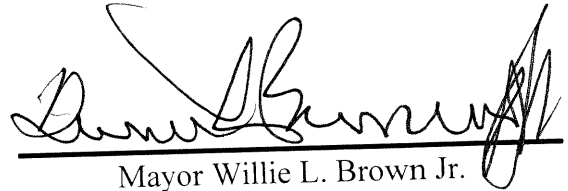
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on November 8, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

NOV 19 1999

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.