

1 [Commending Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin]

2

3 **Resolution commending Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin for his**  
4 **distinguished and trusted leadership, beloved friendship, valued guidance and**  
5 **counsel, and incredible tenure of public service from 2001 through 2024, on the**  
6 **occasion of his final Board of Supervisors meeting.**

7

8 WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin -- first sworn into office on January 8, 2001 -- has  
9 been elected five times by the voters of District 3, making him the longest serving District  
10 Supervisor in San Francisco history and the longest serving San Francisco Supervisor in at  
11 least the last 75 years, and he has enjoyed a distinguished career in public service off and on  
12 from 2001-2024, while also serving as Director of the environmental non-profit Great Basin  
13 Land and Water Trust, and serving as the Chair of the San Francisco Democratic Central  
14 Committee (DCCC) from 2008-2012; and

15 WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has been elected three times by his colleagues  
16 to serve as President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, including twice  
17 unanimously, a historic and distinctive feat that has not been otherwise documented in  
18 modern history; and

19 WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has earned a reputation as not only a  
20 distinguished and well-respected statesman, skilled negotiator, astute problem-solver, trusted  
21 mentor, dogged advocate for San Francisco (especially the city's most vulnerable), and  
22 relentlessly responsive provider of constituent services, but also a prolific legislator,  
23 authoring or serving as lead sponsor of no less than 1,678 separate files at the Board of  
24 Supervisors, including 1,262 separate pieces of legislation which have been adopted up final  
25 passage, while also serving as the lead co-author of 1,694 separate pieces of legislation; and

1           WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin's expansive legislative contributions have  
2 spanned the gamut of every conceivable area of public policy, and touched on every aspect of  
3 San Francisco City and County life, including undertaking the laborious and challenging  
4 reform of the City's Tax Code, spearheading environmental protections, negotiating  
5 complicated land use developments that secure the best public value for San Franciscans  
6 (and in some cases ensuring that a better deal is negotiated that saves the City money),  
7 improving city services and day-to-day operations like centralizing fleet management and  
8 streamlining contracting requirements, providing stronger tenant protections, championing the  
9 unique character of neighborhoods, and rooting out corruption, fraud and waste in the service  
10 of a more functional and effective government worthy of the public trust; and

11           WHEREAS, Since 2001, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has voted to approve (or facilitate)  
12 at least 115,000 new housing units, including at least 43,000 market rate units, and 34,000  
13 affordable units, and he has sponsored legislation or voted to approve \$19.8 billion in housing  
14 funding, likely securing his status as having voted to produce and protect more housing and  
15 more affordable housing than any other San Francisco Supervisor in recent history, while  
16 effectively eliminating Single Family Zoning through the passage of his Accessory Dwelling  
17 Unit (ADU) legislation; and

18           WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has left a strong environmental legacy since  
19 2001 that includes legislating a citywide ban of Styrofoam, protecting San Francisco's  
20 renowned Bay ecosystem by stopping the San Francisco Airport's ill-advised plans to infill  
21 100+ acres of San Francisco's precious Bay for an additional runway, legislating Green  
22 Building Standards for new large scale developments, working closely with former Supervisor  
23 Sophie Maxwell to shut down one of the State's oldest and dirtiest power plants and replace it  
24 with housing, authoring the 2018 measure to allow the SFPUC to issue revenue bonds for  
25 clean power infrastructure and projects (including an eventual takeover of PG&E's power

1 system), protect San Francisco's prized wild parrots (now the official city animal), and stand  
2 up against egregious attacks of the Clean Water Act and Environmental Protection Agency by  
3 local politicians siding with the Trump Administration; and

4 WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has been a national leader in instituting  
5 appropriate regulations and common-sense safeguards against the abuse of Artificial  
6 Intelligence, including banning Facial Recognition Technology used for surveillance and rent  
7 price-fixing software that has spurred the federal government to follow suit with its own  
8 consumer and renter protections and litigation; and

9 WHEREAS, Since 2001, Supervisor Peskin has been a tireless advocate for tenants,  
10 authoring legislation to require relocation assistance payments to all tenants displaced by Ellis  
11 Act evictions, eliminating excessive and harmful operating and maintenance (O&M) pass-  
12 throughs, tackling fraudulent Owner Move-In (OMI) evictions under penalty of perjury, ending  
13 the practice of "Musical Rooms" in Single Room Occupancy residential hotels through a  
14 massive reform of the Hotel Conversion Ordinance in 2017, spearheading negotiations with  
15 short-term rental operator AirBnB to come up with a fair permitting program that would  
16 disincentivize residential displacement and evictions and punish bad actors, fairly right-size  
17 the tenant pass-through in bond measures, and establish the first-in-the-nation Tenant Right  
18 to Organize; and

19 WHEREAS, Since 2001, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has defined his public service career  
20 with good government policies, long leading the fight to reform the City's campaign and ethics  
21 laws by authoring legislation to require political robo-calls to identify who paid for them and  
22 requiring political advertising to disclose who its top funders are, closing the loophole on  
23 development permit lobbying and on campaign consultants who lobby City officials, prohibiting  
24 political candidates from giving anything of value to voters in exchange for their vote, and  
25

1 prohibiting former Supervisors from lobbying their old colleagues and prohibiting corporate  
2 contributions to City candidates, amongst many others; and

3 WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin's other good government policies include  
4 establishing the Board of Supervisors' Government Audit & Oversight Committee and imbuing  
5 it with the power of subpoena, where the Committee members have presided over countless  
6 investigatory hearings that have uncovered fraud, inefficiencies and even corruption within  
7 and outside of City Hall, including investigatory hearings that led to requiring the Medical  
8 Examiner to get its accreditation back; the revelation that the City had not been enforcing  
9 planning laws for the Academy of Art, the settlement of which illegal conversion lawsuit netted  
10 the City \$37.6 million of affordable housing funds; the revelation that Recology had been  
11 knowingly overcharging rate-payers with the help of city officials to the tune of millions of  
12 dollars, which led to Supervisor Peskin's Prop F of 2022, which reformed the city's refuse rate-  
13 setting process and created a ratepayer advocate; and investigations that led to the demise of  
14 Cruise's dishonest and dangerous business practices in San Francisco, after corporate  
15 officials knowingly covered up the robo-taxi's role in the dragging of a woman under a Cruise  
16 vehicle; and

17 WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has long led the city in enacting local programs  
18 enabled by state law, including revolutionizing the use of Business Improvement Districts  
19 (BID's) as a vehicle for neighborhood self-actualization by authoring local enabling legislation  
20 for BIDs and then Community Benefit Districts (CBD's), and successfully shepherding through  
21 new districts across San Francisco, as well as establishing our local Mills Act program for  
22 historic tax credits; and

23 WHEREAS, Since 2001, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has authored 17 separate winning  
24 Charter Amendments, most notably 2016's Proposition C Inclusionary Housing for All  
25 measure, 2024's Propositions C and G to establish an Office of the Inspector General and

1 Affordable Housing Operating Fund for Seniors and Families respectively, and 2024's  
2 Proposition E to establish sensible charter and commission reform, which won and helped  
3 defeat billionaire Michael Moritz's countermeasure ill-advised Proposition D, despite being  
4 outspent 130:1; and he has authored many creative financing measures for the ballot, most  
5 notably 2007's Proposition A to bring much-needed reform and oversight to San Francisco's  
6 MTA in exchange for additional revenue, 2016's Proposition C Seismic Safety Repurposing  
7 Bond, which repurposed \$260 million for the acquisition, rehab, and preservation of at-risk  
8 housing and make it permanently affordable in exchange for low-cost loans, 2018's  
9 Proposition A Seawall Bond, which generated \$425 million in critical and historic funds to  
10 begin long-term planning for Embarcadero resiliency and essential safety improvements, and  
11 2019's first-in-California TNC ride-hail tax, which has generated millions of dollars in funding  
12 for Vision Zero safety improvements and transit; and

13 WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin stepped up to lead throughout the COVID-19  
14 pandemic, becoming the first elected official to serve at the city's Emergency Operations  
15 Center to quickly stand up disaster response, secured funding for a groundbreaking and wildly  
16 successful COVID-19 "Feed & Fuel program" to feed the city's most vulnerable and keep  
17 restaurant workers employed, piloted the city's first "Shared Spaces" parklet programs and  
18 then worked to develop the formal permanent program, use his real estate skills to secure  
19 hotels for those in need of isolation from the COVID-19 virus, including the homeless and  
20 essential workers and first responders, negotiated additional resources to keep Chinese  
21 Hospital open and operating, authored protections for hospitality and janitorial workers with  
22 his Healthy Buildings Ordinance, and authored early-on protections for SRO residents living in  
23 congregate settings, including on-site testing and vaccinations, which is largely credited with  
24 helping ensure Chinatown's low transmission rates throughout the pandemic; and

25

1           WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin championed legislation to preserve San  
2           Francisco’s historic fabric by authoring a successful Charter amendment to establish a  
3           Historic Preservation Commission, placing identifying street signs in each of the City’s historic  
4           districts, and applying local historic landmark protections to dozens of individual structures,  
5           most notably Mission High School, the Drexler/Colombo Building, the Old Mint, the Glazer-  
6           Keating House, City Lights Bookstore, the Bernard Zakheim murals at UCSF Parnassus, and  
7           all three Diego Rivera murals at the former San Francisco Art Institute site, the City Club and  
8           the City College; and

9           WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has worked with merchant associations all over  
10          the city to establish and strengthen commercial districts (and most recently Entertainment  
11          Districts as a part of his Downtown Revitalization efforts) and author interim moratoriums and  
12          planning controls to help save such storied institutions as the San Francisco Flower Mart, the  
13          Punch Line Comedy Club and beloved legacy businesses like La Mediterranee, while  
14          authoring the city’s first Vacant Storefronts Tax which has generated \$3.1 million of revenue  
15          for the City’s Small Business Assistance Fund to date; and

16          WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has led on every significant overhaul of the city’s  
17          business tax since his first term in office, including the most recent 2024 Proposition M, where  
18          he ensured that small businesses would receive a significant tax break, including grocery  
19          stores with razor-thin margins, a policy decision that Grocery Outlet credited as solidifying its  
20          decision to relocate into North Point in Supervisor Peskin’s district; and

21          WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin has enjoyed the lowest staff turnover of any  
22          other Supervisor, and is most proud of his work with his colleagues on issues big and small,  
23          working across the aisle to make San Francisco more efficient, effective and vibrant, often  
24          saying that the most important people in his life are the ten other members of the Board of  
25

1 Supervisors and that "it is the opinions and insight of my colleagues I care most about, more  
2 than other city officials, members of the press, pundits or lobbyists"; and

3 WHEREAS, Supervisor Aaron Peskin will preside over his final Board of Supervisors  
4 meeting as President on December 17, 2024, after a long and illustrious career stewarding  
5 the Board of Supervisors and San Francisco through stormy political waters, a global  
6 pandemic and economic booms and busts and logging a total of 34,536 votes at Board and in  
7 Committee; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco,  
9 as well as colleagues past and present of Department 01, do hereby commend Board of  
10 Supervisors President Aaron Peskin for his distinguished and reliable leadership, beloved  
11 friendship, valued guidance and counsel, and incredible tenure of public service, on the  
12 occasion of his final Board of Supervisors meeting. Words cannot express our sincere  
13 gratitude for your exemplary service to San Francisco, and the central and essential role that  
14 you have played in shaping the City's future, as well as the impact you have had on  
15 the professional and personal lives of your colleagues and staff.

16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25