

1 [Black Business Month - August 2025]

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3 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to declare the month of**
4 **August as Black Business Month, and to recognize the 22nd Annual National Black**
5 **Business Month beginning on August 1, 2025.**
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7 WHEREAS, August 1, 2025, marks the beginning of the 22nd annual National Black
8 Business Month; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2004, motivated by his own experiences, San Franciscan Frederick E.
10 Jordan Sr., P.E., a legendary civil engineer whose work helped shape the city's skyline and
11 infrastructure, and John William Templeton, creator of the California African American
12 Freedom Trail, launched National Black Business Month to highlight Black entrepreneurs and
13 encourage the public to support their businesses; and

14 WHEREAS, This observance recognizes the critical role of Black-owned businesses in
15 strengthening both the African American community and the broader national economy; and

16 WHEREAS, National Black Business Month also brings attention to the policy issues
17 affecting African American entrepreneurship and economic equity; and

18 WHEREAS, Data from the 2012 U.S. Census Bureau indicates that there were
19 approximately 2.6 million Black-owned businesses in the United States, employing nearly one
20 million people and generating roughly \$187 billion in annual revenue; and

21 WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce,
22 the number of African American-owned businesses in San Francisco had declined by nearly
23 25 percent, with a 60.7 percent drop in receipts in 2016; and

24 WHEREAS, Capt. William Alexander Leidesdorff, a distinguished African American
25 mariner and merchant, was the first City Treasurer and School Committee Chair of San

1 Francisco, cemented his legacy as one of the city's most successful early entrepreneurs with
2 his estate, valued at \$1.4 million in 1854; and

3 WHEREAS, This year's observance is especially urgent as Black communities and
4 businesses face renewed threats from nationwide rollbacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion
5 (DEI) initiatives, making continued advocacy and investment in Black entrepreneurship more
6 critical than ever; and

7 WHEREAS, Between 2005 and 2017, only 1,000 of the 144,000 new jobs in San
8 Francisco County went to African Americans and in response, the National Black Business
9 Month launched the "10,000 in 12 Months" initiative, led by Dr. Charles Moses, Dean of the
10 University of San Francisco School of Management, to promote recruitment, promotion, and
11 retention of African American professionals by local employers; and

12 WHEREAS, The address of San Francisco City Hall honors Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, a
13 preeminent Black entrepreneur, physician, psychologist, publisher, and 1966 candidate for
14 Governor of California; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco's District 10 is home to thriving Black-owned businesses
16 such as Gumbo Social, Yvonne's Sweets, Punkin's 1 Stop Beauty Shop, Smoke Soul Kitchen
17 and more, Black-owned businesses are essential to San Francisco's cultural and economic
18 life, which exemplify cultural and economic vitality through culinary innovation, community-
19 rooted services, and creative entrepreneurship; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance
21 of Black businesses to the economic and cultural life of our city and declares August 2025 as
22 the 22nd annual National Black Business Month in San Francisco and encourages all San
23 Franciscans to support, invest in, contract with, and uplift Black-owned businesses year-
24 round; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is committed to
2 advancing equitable economic development strategies that support the city's diverse
3 communities; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will continue to
5 dedicate resources to neighborhoods with significant Black populations, namely Bayview-
6 Hunters Point, the Western Addition, and the Fillmore, by supporting Black-owned businesses
7 and entrepreneurs throughout the city; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall transmit a copy of this
9 Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, the Office of Small Business, the Office of Economic
10 and Workforce Development, the Human Rights Commission, the Bay Area Organization of
11 Black Owned Businesses (BAOBAB) Directory, the San Francisco African American Chamber
12 of Commerce, and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.