

1 [Commending Deputy City Attorney Michael S. Cohen.]

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3 **Resolution commending Michael S. Cohen for nine years of exemplary public service to**  
4 **San Francisco as a Deputy City Attorney and Head of the Finance, Real Estate and**  
5 **Special Projects Division of the City Attorney’s Office, and wishing him well in his future**  
6 **endeavors as the new Director of Base Reuse and Development in the Mayor's Office of**  
7 **Economic and Workforce Development.**

8

9 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco wishes to  
10 honor Michael S. Cohen, who has given nine years of dedicated and exemplary public service to  
11 San Francisco as a Deputy City Attorney, first under City Attorney Louise H. Renne and then  
12 under City Attorney Dennis J. Herrera, and who is now leaving the City Attorney's Office and the  
13 practice of law to take a new position as the Director of Base Reuse and Development; and,

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen has been one of the City’s best and most effective lawyers,  
15 successfully representing the City in many significant projects and matters of great public  
16 interest, and has devoted his extraordinary talents to advising the offices and officials of the City  
17 and County of San Francisco, including the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, the Board of  
18 Education, the Director of Property, the Municipal Transportation Agency, the Recreation and  
19 Park Commission, the Port, the Public Utilities Commission, and many other City and City-  
20 related boards, commissions, agencies and officials, including the San Francisco Unified School  
21 District and Treasure Island Development Authority, in a wide range of real estate and finance  
22 transactional matters and legislative items; and,

23 WHEREAS, The City, its voters and residents have benefited tremendously from Mr.  
24 Cohen's exemplary leadership and negotiating, drafting and deal structuring skills; and,

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1           WHEREAS, In August 1995 Mr. Cohen joined the City Attorney's Office as Senior  
2 Attorney after five years of private legal practice, having graduated from Hastings School of  
3 Law and done his undergraduate work at University of Wisconsin; in February 1998 he was  
4 promoted to Principal Attorney, in February 1999 he was further promoted to Assistant Chief  
5 Attorney I and in April 2000 he was promoted again to Assistant Chief Attorney II; and,

6           WHEREAS, As a Deputy City Attorney and, since 2000, head of the Finance, Real  
7 Estate and Special Projects Team, Mr. Cohen has been the lead lawyer for a number of  
8 successful public-private development projects in San Francisco, including (i) the reuse of the  
9 Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, for which the Navy, after nearly 12 years of negotiations,  
10 recently entered into an agreement to convey the base to the Redevelopment Agency and the  
11 Redevelopment Agency Commission approved an agreement for disposition and  
12 development for the first phase of the Shipyard, (ii) the restoration of Harding Park into a  
13 world class, PGA Championship golf course, (iii) the development of a new hotel on surplus  
14 MUNI property at Mission and Steuart Streets; (iv) the sale of 500 acres of surplus PUC  
15 property in Pleasanton and (v) the renovation of Union Square Park; and,

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen has also served as a lead lawyer on a number of other ongoing  
17 development projects that are important to the City's future, such as (i) the conversion of the  
18 former naval base at Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island, (ii) the development of a mixed  
19 use office and residential project at 10<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets, (iii) the acquisition and reuse of  
20 the historic Old Mint building, (iv) the financing and construction of the Golden Gate Music  
21 Concourse underground parking facility to service the new DeYoung and Academy of  
22 Sciences buildings, (v) the development of affordable housing projects on the former Caltrans  
23 right-of-way parcels along Octavia Boulevard and (vi) the redevelopment of the Transbay  
24 Terminal area; and,

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen has distinguished himself among his peers in the area of base  
2 reuse and in negotiating complex real estate transactions; and,

3           WHEREAS, Throughout his career in City government, Mr. Cohen has been a star,  
4 excelling as a problem solver and deal-maker, and helping craft creative, practical and  
5 effective solutions in complex transactions; and,

6           WHEREAS, As the supervisor of the City Attorney Office's Real Estate and Finance  
7 Division, Mr. Cohen has motivated his colleagues to do their finest legal work and realize their  
8 maximum potential, has done an outstanding job in implementing training programs in  
9 substantive areas of the law, and has been a delight for his clients to work with; and,

10          WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen's colleagues in the City Attorney's Office have valued him for his  
11 skill and proficiency in his work, and for his astute counsel, good judgment, strategic thinking,  
12 leadership, commitment, productivity, perseverance, efficiency, energy, integrity, sense of humor  
13 and – most of all – his friendship, and they will dearly miss having him in the Office; and,

14          WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen leaves behind a talented group of real estate and finance  
15 lawyers in the City Attorney's Office, who will continue to admirably represent the City in its  
16 transactions; now, therefore, be it

17          RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
18 hereby commends Michael S. Cohen for his nine years of exemplary public service for the City  
19 and County, its voters and residents; and, be it

20          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors is grateful that Mr. Cohen will  
21 stay in the City family and wishes him well in his future endeavors as the City's Director of  
22 Base Reuse and Development.