

1 [Tom Owen Day - December 8, 2016]

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3 **Resolution declaring December 8, 2016, as Tom Owen Day in the City and County of**
4 **San Francisco, in recognition of his many years of outstanding service in the City**
5 **Attorney’s Office and his well-deserved retirement.**

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7 WHEREAS, Tom Owen joined the San Francisco City Attorney’s Office in 1981 as a
8 Deputy City Attorney immediately after his graduation from Stanford Law School; and

9 WHEREAS, Tom has devoted his entire career to the City, working nearly 35 years in
10 the City Attorney’s Office, under three elected City Attorneys; and

11 WHEREAS, During that time, Tom has served as general counsel or primary advice
12 attorney for the Department of the Environment, the Environment Commission, the
13 Department of Emergency Management, the Disaster Council, the Controller’s Office, the
14 Treasury Oversight Committee, the Civil Grand Jury, the Taxi Commission, and the Board of
15 Appeals, among others; and

16 WHEREAS, Tom has also provided thousands of hours of legal assistance to the
17 Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the City Administrator, the Treasurer-Tax Collector, the
18 Department of Elections, the Department of Public Works, and the Office of the Clerk of the
19 Board, among others, and has represented the City in litigation at every level of the California
20 and United States court systems; and

21 WHEREAS, Tom was the primary drafter of the 1996 Charter, which wholly replaced
22 the 1932 Charter, is the primary source of authority as to the meaning of that Charter and has
23 drafted many of the most complex Charter amendments that followed in the next 20 years;
24 and

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1 WHEREAS, Tom has likewise been a prolific drafter of ordinances, covering a wide
2 range of subjects, and has also authored numerous formal legal opinions of the City
3 Attorney’s Office that have stood and will stand the test of time; and

4 WHEREAS, Tom has been an invaluable and indefatigable resource, both within the
5 City Attorney’s Office and throughout City government, on the most challenging and
6 complicated questions of municipal law lending to each writing task his unique capacity to
7 render complex subjects in lucid and simple language, and has served as a mentor to the
8 many City employees who have worked with him, including attorneys and staff; and

9 WHEREAS, Tom approaches every task and assignment—no matter how complicated
10 or controversial—with professionalism, aplomb, cool-headedness, efficiency, and good
11 humor; and

12 WHEREAS, Every member of this Board of Supervisors, and scores of those who have
13 served on the Board during Tom’s stellar career, have relied on and benefited from Tom’s
14 wise counsel, his perspective on municipal governance, his incisive analysis, his extraordinary
15 writing skills, his integrity, and his fundamental decency; and

16 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors and the City are immeasurably better for Tom’s
17 service; and

18 WHEREAS, Tom’s service to the City will be ending on December 31, 2016, with his
19 retirement, which, though richly deserved, will be lamented by this Board and many others in
20 City government; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, In celebration of Tom Owen’s outstanding accomplishments and
22 contributions to the City and County of San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors does hereby
23 declare December 8, 2016, to be Tom Owen Day in San Francisco.