

1 [2003 Domestic Violence Awareness Month.]

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3 **Resolution ratifying that the Board of Supervisors declares the month of October 2003**
4 **as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, In 1981, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, in an effort to
7 connect battered women’s advocates across the nation, organized a week of a series of
8 activities conducted at the local, State and federal levels so as to mourn those who had died
9 because of domestic violence, to celebrate those who had survived and to connect those who
10 continually work to end violence; and,

11 WHEREAS, As a result of these efforts, in October 1987, the first Domestic Violence
12 Awareness Month was observed, followed by the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month
13 Commemorative Legislation, which was passed by the U.S. Congress; and,

14 WHEREAS, Each year domestic violence organizations and their allies sponsor
15 activities to raise awareness about domestic violence and abuse at the national level; and

16 WHEREAS, It is known that over one-third of women in the United States are killed by
17 their current or former partners; and,

18 WHEREAS, Approximately one million women annually report being stalked, and many
19 children suffer or witness abuse in their homes, which can sadly create legacies of violence in
20 families across the United States; and,

21 WHEREAS, Each year, over eight million children witness violence between their
22 parents and later these children are at a 40% greater risk than those from non-violent homes
23 to develop emotional and behavior problems; and,

24 WHEREAS, Research indicates that partner violence is highly correlated with parental
25 violence upon children. Those children who have been subjected to parental abuse, or who

1 have been witness to assaults between their parents, may experience the following
2 symptoms: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, attention
3 and cognitive deficits, school problems, poor peer relations and delinquent behavior as
4 adolescents; and,

5 WHEREAS, Accordingly, organizations in the greater Bay Area are sponsoring events
6 to educate the public by bringing together community groups interested in reducing domestic
7 violence, including Contra Costa County's Violence Prevention Forum, a luncheon and video
8 presentation sponsored by the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Marin, a Men Against
9 Domestic Violence Walk-A-Thon in Oakland being sponsored by A Safe Place, a twenty-year
10 anniversary celebration of the Riley Center in San Francisco and a reception at the Rally
11 Visitation Services for the welcoming of its new Executive Director and the implementation of
12 its newly funded Safe Havens Project ; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
14 does hereby ratify the month of October 2003 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in
15 the City and County of San Francisco.

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