

1 [Artistic Free Speech Day - August 7, 2015]

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3 **Resolution declaring August 7, 2015, as Artistic Free Speech Day in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Freedom of speech is a cherished core value in the United States of
7 America; and

8 WHEREAS, Artistic freedom of expression is a form of freedom of speech that has
9 been vigorously pursued, challenged, upheld in our country and in our city; and is now
10 especially appreciated in San Francisco; and

11 WHEREAS, San Franciscan artists Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Shig Murao and/or their
12 representatives were arrested (or threatened with arrest) for expressing their creativity, which
13 offended the sensibilities of authorities acting arbitrarily without regard for our constitutionally
14 guaranteed rights to freedom of expression; and

15 WHEREAS, Legendary stand-up comedian Lenny Bruce was repeatedly arrested and
16 harassed by the authorities in San Francisco and elsewhere for expressing his social critique;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Cited for obscenity, he was defended at the Howl trial by ACLU of
19 Northern California attorney Al Bendich; and

20 WHEREAS, The charges were dismissed by Judge Clayton at that trial; and

21 WHEREAS, These cases reflect a wrong against artists and their free speech that
22 needs to be recognized and righted in the light of the progress we have made as a city and a
23 society that now fully respects artistic freedom of expression; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco seeks to recognize exactly 50
25 years since Ron Davis' arrest in Lafayette Park; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, By the Board of Supervisors that August 7, 2015, be declared
2 as Artistic Free Speech Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

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