

1 [Urging Support for Preservation and Restoration of Belli Buildings.]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Building Inspection to diligently monitor the**  
4 **status and condition of the historic Belli Buildings and expressing support for**  
5 **preserving these historical treasures through all means possible.**

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7 WHEREAS, San Francisco's unique architectural and historic character help make it a  
8 prime tourist destination and increase the quality of life for all its residents; and,

9 WHEREAS, The Belli buildings are two of the oldest structures in San Francisco,  
10 having been built in 1851 and 1853; and,

11 WHEREAS, These buildings, formerly the meeting house of the Masonic Lodge, first  
12 housed the Langerman's tobacco warehouse and are two of only ten remaining in San  
13 Francisco from that period of time; and,

14 WHEREAS, These buildings were most recently the offices of renowned San  
15 Francisco attorney Melvin Belli, known as "The King of Torts," who defended some of the  
16 most high profile celebrities and criminals including Errol Flynn, Lenny Bruce, Mae West,  
17 Muhammad Ali, Lana Turner, the Rolling Stones, Sirhan Sirhan, and Jack Ruby among  
18 others; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Belli buildings, City Landmarks number nine and ten, survived several  
20 fires during the late 1800's and the 1906 earthquake but remained structurally sound until  
21 sustaining damage in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and subsequent deterioration due to  
22 neglect and the unauthorized removal of the roof; and,

23 WHEREAS, The Jackson Square Historic District Association, the Telegraph Hill  
24 Dwellers, San Francisco Architectural Heritage Association and the Victorian Alliance have  
25 called on the City of San Francisco to force repairs to be completed; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
2 hereby declares its unqualified support for preserving two of its most significant historical  
3 buildings through all means possible; and, be it

4           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the Department of Building Inspection  
5 to take all steps to safeguard the buildings including but not limited to effectuating the  
6 necessary repairs; and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the Office of the City Attorney to  
8 enforce the provisions of the settlement with the building's owner, Nancy Ho-Belli.

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