

1 [Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors provide city funding for the first
2 annual Central American “Festival de los Volcanoes”]
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5 **Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to recognize November 4th,**
6 **2007 Central American Peoples Day, and to acknowledge Central American Resource**
7 **Center’s (CARECEN) contributions in organizing first annual Central American**
8 **Community “Festival de los Volcanoes” which celebrates the historical presence and**
9 **contributions of Central Americans to San Francisco.**

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11 WHEREAS, the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) is an immigrant
12 family wellness and empowerment agency committed to providing needed services to affect
13 long-term change; and,

14 WHEREAS, for the last twenty-one years, CARECEN has fulfilled its mission to
15 enhance the quality of life for Latino and immigrant residents through wellness, family
16 empowerment, and legal and advocacy programs that emphasize family support; and,

17 WHEREAS, CARECEN will be honoring the Central American’s presence in San
18 Francisco by organizing the first annual “Festival of Volcanoes; Celebrating Central America”
19 and,

20 WHEREAS, CARECEN’s first annual “Festival of Volcanoes” is a cultural celebration
21 that aims to educate, inspire, unify, and create trans-generational bonds within the Central
22 American community in the Bay Area; and,

23 WHEREAS, Central Americans have a long standing tradition of migrating to the
24 United States that dates back more than a century due to economic and political instability in
25 their countries of origin.

1 WHEREAS, Significant numbers of early immigrants arrived in the United States
2 during the 1930's-1940's and resettled in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston and New
3 Orleans while escaping their failing economies, political persecution and the lack of personal
4 freedoms

5 WHEREAS, Central American immigrants, as active members of social migration
6 networks, helped to establish the social and economic foundations in the Latin American
7 immigrant communities in San Francisco.

8 WHEREAS, these early Central American immigrants that settled in San Francisco
9 provide much benefit the future generations of Central Americans that would later arrive in the
10 United States.

11 WHEREAS, It is important to note that Central Americans relied mostly on family
12 networks rather than ethnic, neighborhood, village, or national migration networks during the
13 early migrations to the United States. Furthermore, many of these immigrants were members
14 of the urban middle classes and had relatively high levels of education. Many were
15 intellectuals, teachers, labor organizers, political dissidents, or exiled military officers that
16 were not in agreement with their Central American governments.

17 WHEREAS, The influx of Central American immigrants to this country increased at an
18 extremely rapid pace in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Presently, Central America ranks as
19 the second Latin American region contributing legal and undocumented migrations to the
20 United States.

21 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area has historically been a haven for Central
22 American immigrants as the local communities have provided the social and cultural support
23 systems that have helped their successful adaptation and incorporation into their local
24 communities.

1 WHEREAS, CARECEN’s “Festival of Volcanoes” will celebrate the customs, cultures
2 and other contributions of Centroamericanos in San Francisco’s Bay Area and provide an
3 opportunity for showcasing the region’s people, environment, and history; and,

4 WHEREAS, CARECEN’s “Festival of Volcanoes” will be a family and community event
5 aimed at the diverse communities of indigenous, afro-Centroamericano, and other
6 marginalized groups but inclusive of cultural traditions and voices of unity among all San
7 Francisco residents; and,

8 WHEREAS, CARECEN’s “Festival of Volcanoes” will encourage and promote
9 collaboration with a broad segment of organizations, businesses, and groups serving or
10 working with the Central American community; and,

11 WHEREAS, the “Festival of Volcanoes” will highlight issues affecting the Central
12 American community in San Francisco including immigration, education, healthcare, and
13 affordable housing. The Festival is also designed to promote social justice in fair trade
14 practices, companies, and products which provide living wages to Centroamericanos; and,

15 WHEREAS, the “Festival of Volcanoes” is an expression of a broad collaboration of
16 leaders and community organizations, housed and sponsored under CARECEN, and steered
17 by a committee of individuals representing all Central American countries; and,

18 WHEREAS, the “Festival of Volcanoes” will be paying tribute to Carlos Aceituno, an
19 artistic pioneer in Afro-Brazilian dance and music culture best known as the guiding light
20 behind San Francisco’s Fogo Na Roupa—one of the best Brazilian Contingents for the San
21 Francisco Carnival parade;

22 WHEREAS, The Central American Community comes together to recognize the artistic
23 life and legacy of Mestre Carlos Gilberto Aceituno, in honor of his work as a Central American
24 immigrant. Mestre Carlos Aceituno was the Founder/Director of SF Carnival Award winning
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1 contingent, Fogo Na Roupa and the nationally renowned Capoeira arts group, Omulu
2 Guanabara,

3 WHEREAS, Mestre Carlos was originally from Quetzaltenango, Guatemala and
4 immigrated to the Bay Area in the mid 1980s. For 20 years, Mestre Carlos Aceituno has
5 shown commitment to his community by teaching dance, music and folklore of the Afro-
6 Brazilian Diaspora to the entire community, particularly inner city youth.

7 WHEREAS. The “Festival of Volcanoes” will also be paying tribute to Ricardo Calderon
8 one of the founders of CARECEN who has served the Latino Immigrant community in San
9 Francisco for more than twenty-one years as immigration paralegal.

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Calderon was a political prisoner and a torture survivor in El Salvador
11 in 1980, who came to San Francisco in 1981 and was rescued with leadership of the US
12 Solidarity with El Salvador Movement and the faculty committee for human rights in El
13 Salvador of UC Berkeley and Stanford University.

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Calderon was general Secretary for the University of El Salvador, third
15 in authority after the rector and vice rector. And the University of El Salvador is the most
16 important public university in the country teaching more than 5,000 students a year at that
17 time;

18 WHEREAS, through Mr. Calderon’s leadership at CARECEN hundreds of Salvadorans
19 and Guatemalans have attained political refugee status; thousands of Mexican and other
20 Latin American immigrants have received immigration services and become US citizens; and
21 hundreds continue to renew their work permits yearly.

22 WHEREAS, The Central American community celebrates Mestre’s unique ability to
23 bring people together in the study of cultural traditions and folklore and also celebrates the
24 important contributions Ricardo Calderon has made to securing the lives of political refugees,
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1 reuniting immigrant families and securing work permits to thousands of immigrants. The
2 community applauds their exemplary leadership; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, that the City and County of San Francisco recognize and honor the
4 contributions of Central Americans to the city and that the Board of Supervisors endorse the
5 Festival de Los Volcanoes; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors highlight the presence of the
7 national, cultural and ethnic diversity of our San Francisco residents of Central American
8 origin and continue to be committed to the development of this important segment of our city's
9 population; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors honor the contributions of
11 Carlos Aceituno, a Guatemalan American that contributed to our city's art and culture by
12 leading Fogo Na Roupa and Omulu Guanabara, a nationally renowned Capoeira arts group
13 an inspirational multicultural and multigenerational dance troop.

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors honors the contributions of
15 Ricardo Calderon, a Salvadoran political refugee who has contributed to the physical
16 wellbeing of Central Americans fleeing political and military violence and who has assured the
17 stability of thousands of San Francisco immigrants by securing their legal immigration status.

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors recognizes November 4th as
19 Central American People's Day.

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