

1 [Recognizing the Twentieth Anniversary of the “Winter of Love” in San Francisco]

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3 **Resolution commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the “Winter of Love” in San**
4 **Francisco on February 12, 2024; recognizing then-Mayor Gavin Newsom for his bold**
5 **and history-making decision to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples; and**
6 **recognizing the panoply of city officials and their staffs, community-based advocacy**
7 **and legal organizations and their members, couples and their families, friends and**
8 **loved ones for courageous and united advocacy that both affirmed San Francisco's**
9 **enduring commitment to LGBTQ+ equality, and that ultimately made history by**
10 **invalidating discriminatory marriage laws in California, and setting the stage for the**
11 **landmark United States (U.S.) Supreme Court decision in 2015 securing marriage**
12 **equality nationwide.**

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14 WHEREAS, February 12, 2024, will mark two decades since the historic “Winter of
15 Love” began in San Francisco, when then-Mayor Gavin Newsom made a bold and history-
16 making stand for LGBTQ+ equality and justice by issuing marriage licenses to same-sex
17 couples; and

18 WHEREAS, Then-Mayor Newsom was joined by then-City Attorney Dennis Herrera
19 and his legal team under the direction of then-Chief Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart in
20 not merely defending the Mayor’s actions, but affirmatively suing the State of California to
21 strike down discriminatory marriage laws that denied equality to LGBTQ+ couples - the first
22 public sector entity in American history ever to mount such a legal challenge; and

23 WHEREAS, Then-Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng and then-County Clerk Nancy Alfaro
24 and their teams were similarly steadfast in their commitment to

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1 justice, lending the administrative expertise and energies of their offices in support of couples
2 who sought to marry because of Mayor Newsom's action, and who successfully coordinated
3 countless city employees and officials to meet the demand for those seeking to wed; and

4 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and San Francisco's entire
5 elected family stood united in this effort, including many who participated in officiating
6 weddings and facilitating expanded hours in City Hall over the course of approximately one
7 month before the California Supreme Court halted the weddings on March 11, 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, Undeterred in the face of legal challenges, a multitude of LGBTQ+
9 community-based advocacy and legal organizations - including Equality California, the Human
10 Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, Marriage Equality USA, the National Center for Lesbian
11 Rights, and Our Family Coalition among others - stood united with plaintiff couples and
12 lawyers from the City Attorney's Office to continue the fight in state and federal courts that
13 would go on for nearly a decade; and

14 WHEREAS, The U.S. Supreme Court on June 26, 2013, decided the case of
15 Hollingsworth v. Perry (558 U.S. 183), relegalizing same-sex marriage in the State of
16 California, and setting the stage for the landmark 2015 ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges (576
17 U.S. 644), which held that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples
18 by the Due Process and the Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the
19 U.S. Constitution; and

20 WHEREAS, The "Winter of Love" not only highlighted San Francisco's dedication to
21 breaking down barriers and championing the rights of marginalized communities, but marked
22 a decisive moment in American history to advance the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights and for
23 marriage equality; now, therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commemorates the
2 twentieth anniversary of the “Winter of Love” in San Francisco on February 12, 2024; and, be
3 it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes and
5 honors now-Governor Gavin Newsom for his bold and history-making decision to issue
6 marriage licenses to same-sex couples two decades ago; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes and
8 honors former City Attorney Dennis Herrera, former Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng, former
9 County Clerk Nancy Alfaro, past members Board of Supervisors and the panoply of city
10 officials and staff for their unity and hard work during the “Winter of Love”; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes and
12 honors the community-based advocacy and legal organizations and their members; couples
13 and their families, friends and loved ones for courageous and united advocacy that both
14 affirmed San Francisco's enduring commitment to LGBTQ+ equality, and that made history in
15 a fight that would ultimately invalidate discriminatory marriage laws in California, and set the
16 stage for the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2015 that secured marriage equality
17 nationwide.

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