

1 [In recognition of Dr. David Smith, founder of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic]

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3 **Resolution commending Dr. David Smith for 39 years of service to the community at**
4 **the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic.**

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6 WHEREAS, Dr. David Smith founded the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic in June 1967 with
7 a \$500 loan as part of Happening House, a community venture to offer cultural activities,
8 education, and medical care; and,

9 WHEREAS, When national publicity about the Summer of Love brought hundreds of
10 thousands of young people to San Francisco with no thought of how to provide for
11 themselves, the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic was at the frontlines of providing specialized,
12 nonjudgmental health care to deal with the waves of drug addiction, STDs, and bad trips; and,

13 WHEREAS, The Haight Ashbury Free Clinic began as an all-volunteer project that
14 opened at 8PM every night in addition to maintaining a 24-hour telephone hotline, with Dr.
15 David Smith volunteering three or more hours every night after working full-time as the
16 director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Screening Unit at San Francisco General Hospital;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, In 1973 Dr. David Smith worked with Bill Graham to provide emergency
19 medical care at Grateful Dead and Led Zeppelin concerts at Kezar Stadium; which spawned
20 the creation of the Rock Medicine organization that pioneered the development of the field of
21 event medicine; and,

22 WHEREAS, The Haight Ashbury Free Clinic lives up to the highest ideal that health
23 care is a right, not a privilege, and that it should be free, comprehensive, nonjudgmental,
24 demystified and humane; and,

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1 WHEREAS, The Haight Ashbury Free Clinic has grown to now include 180 paid staff
2 and 500 volunteers; it continues to serve 65,000 patients a year, and in it's history has
3 recorded more than one million patient visits; and,

4 WHEREAS, The Haight Ashbury Free Clinic saves the City and County of San
5 Francisco countless dollars by providing health care to many of the 120,000 uninsured San
6 Franciscans, preventing and mitigating costly emergency room visits, and providing badly
7 needed HIV treatment and mental health care; and

8 WHEREAS, At a time when the United States is struggling under the burden of
9 corporate, privatized health care and harsh cuts to health services for the disadvantaged, the
10 Haight Ashbury Free Clinic continues to prove that providing free health care is possible; and,

11 WHEREAS, Dr. David Smith is a world leader in developing treatments for drug and
12 alcohol addiction and continues to serve as the Medical Director of the California State
13 Alcohol and Drug Program in addition to previously serving as the President of the American
14 Society of Addiction Medicine and the California Society of Addiction Medicine; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco commends Dr. David
17 Smith for 39 years of tireless service to the health care needs of the people of San Francisco,
18 and for providing an example to the nation of the viability of free health care for all.

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