

1 [Support for the Matthew Shepard U.S. Stamp Campaign]

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3 **Resolution supporting the issuance of a commemorative United States (U.S.) Postage**  
4 **Forever Stamp, in honor and in memory of Matthew Shepard.**

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6 WHEREAS, The International Imperial Court System of the United States, Canada, and  
7 Mexico, founded in 1965, has since its founding organized several significant campaigns to  
8 achieve federal recognition and visibility for historic LGBTQ+ icons and trailblazers; and

9 WHEREAS, The International Imperial Court System sponsored a successful initiative  
10 to issue a U.S. commemorative stamp for Harvey Milk, unveiled in May 2014 at the White  
11 House by former President Barack Obama, and is also responsible for a campaign that  
12 resulted in the U.S. Navy’s naming of the U.S.N.S. Harvey Milk; and

13 WHEREAS, A coalition of organizations and leaders convened by the International  
14 Imperial Court System, including California Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins, Cleve  
15 Jones, Stuart Milk, the Matthew Shepard Foundation, and Bruce Cohen have formed the  
16 Matthew Shepard Stamp Campaign to honor Matthew Shepard through a commemorative  
17 stamp; and

18 WHEREAS, Matthew Shepard was born on December 1, 1976 in Casper, Wyoming  
19 and grew into a young man passionate about equality and human rights; and

20 WHEREAS, His tragic murder in 1998, one of the most notorious anti-gay hate crimes  
21 in our nation’s history, became the catalyst for significant shift in public awareness and policy,  
22 leading to the enactment of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes  
23 Prevention Act, a landmark piece of legislation that provides federal protections for violent  
24 acts based on actual or perceived gender, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identify; and

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1           WHEREAS, Issuing a commemorative stamp in Matthew Shepard’s honor would  
2 memorialize his life and legacy and also serve as a reminder of our ongoing responsibility to  
3 champion the values of acceptance and equality; and

4           WHEREAS, Such a stamp would symbolically represent our collective stand against  
5 hate in all forms and our commitment to building a more inclusive and compassionate society;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, In light of the profound influence of Matthew Shepard’s life and death on  
8 our nation’s journey toward greater acceptance and equality, it is fitting and proper that we  
9 honor his memory and legacy through a commemorative stamp; and

10          WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has demonstrated an ongoing  
11 commitment to the advancement of civil rights and the protection of the LGBTQ+ community;  
12 and

13          WHEREAS, In 2023, over 500 pieces of legislation were introduced across the country  
14 targeting the rights of queer and trans Americans; now, therefore, be it

15          RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco honors  
16 the legacy of Matthew Shepard by supporting the Matthew Shepard U.S. Postal Stamp  
17 Campaign and respectfully urges the Members of the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee to  
18 include Matthew Shepard for stamp development consideration; and, be it

19          FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests the Clerk provide copies of  
20 the resolution to be shared with the Matthew Shepard Foundation, the International Imperial  
21 Court Council, the Office of Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, the Offices of the United States  
22 Senator Alex Padilla, and Laphonza Butler, the U.S. Postal Service Citizens’ Stamp Advisory  
23 Committee, and the Postmaster General of the United States.