

1 [Mary Ellen Pleasant Day.]

2  
3 **Resolution declaring February 10, 2005, “Mary Ellen Pleasant Day” in San Francisco.**

4  
5 WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Pleasant was one of San Francisco’s and California’s first  
6 freedom fighters; and

7 WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Pleasant was born a slave near Augusta, Georgia between  
8 1814 and 1817, and, according to ships records and confirming testimony, she arrived in San  
9 Francisco in 1852 to escape persecution under the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, which had  
10 made her life as a slave rescuer in the East increasingly dangerous; and,

11 WHEREAS, Throughout the 1850s, Mary Ellen Pleasant funded and actively  
12 participated in the Underground Railroad with leader John Brown and others; and,

13 WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Pleasant fought tirelessly for the rights of citizenship for all  
14 African Americans, including the right to testify in court and the right to be educated; and,

15 WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Pleasant fought for the rights of women in San Francisco  
16 during the gold-rush era and beyond; and,

17 WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Pleasant was an important entrepreneur and institution builder  
18 in San Francisco for nearly fifty years and helped make the city what it is today; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby declares February 10, 2005, “Mary  
21 Ellen Pleasant Day” in San Francisco.

22  
23  
24  
25