

1 [Commending Virginia Harmon on her service to the City and County of San Francisco as the
2 Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission]

3 **Resolution commending Virginia Harmon on her service to the City and County of San**
4 **Francisco as the Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission.**

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6 WHEREAS, Virginia Harmon graduated from the Golden Gate University School of
7 Law in 1994; and

8 WHEREAS; Virginia Harmon was appointed by Mayor Willie Brown as the Executive Director
9 of the Human Rights Commission in 2000; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Virginia Harmon championed the City's Minority/Women/Local Business
12 Enterprise Ordinance that addresses the discrimination faced by financially disadvantaged
13 local businesses seeking to participate in City contracting, and played a critical role in the
14 development of the strongest possible anti-discrimination legislation when the M/W/LBE
15 ordinance was enjoined by court order; and

16
17 WHEREAS, Virginia Harmon forcefully implemented the City's Equal Benefits
18 ordinance, requiring City contractors to offer the same benefits to married employees and
19 employees with domestic partners which has led to more than 12,000 companies in
20 compliance with the law, covering more than 3 million employees that work for City
21 contractors that offer nondiscriminatory benefits; and

22 WHEREAS, Virginia Harmon's enforcement of the City's Equal Benefit Ordinance has
23 contributed to Domestic Partner insurance being available throughout the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, Virginia Harmon was instrumental in removing the discriminatory
2 exclusions applicable to transgender-related medical treatments in the City's employee health
3 plans; and

4 WHEREAS, Virginia Harmon developed the model for the employment of
5 disadvantaged San Franciscans on City-funded construction projects; and

6 WHEREAS, Virginia Harmon strengthened the Human Rights Commission's process
7 for handling complaints of discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, Virginia Harmon's stewardship of the Commission produced significant
11 hearings and reports on such topics as environmental racism, the backlash against Arab and
12 Muslim Americans post 9/11, and violence affecting San Francisco's African American
13 population; and

14 WHEREAS, Virginia Harmon's strong management skills enhanced the effectiveness
15 and professionalism of HRC staff and the Commission's ability to address discrimination of all
16 types in San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

17 Resolved, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commends Virginia Harmon
18 for her unprecedented work and her impressive list of accomplishments with the Human
19 Rights Commission; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors wishes Virginia Harmon the
21 best of luck with her new position at the Municipal Transportation Agency.