

1 [Supporting Fair Contracts for Golden State Valkyries Women's National Basketball Players]

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3 **Resolution expressing the City and County of San Francisco’s support for women’s**
4 **professional basketball players represented by the Women’s National Basketball**
5 **Players Association, including the Golden State Valkyries; and urging the Women’s**
6 **National Basketball Association to negotiate fair contracts that ensure equitable pay,**
7 **benefits, and working conditions that protect players’ health, safety, and overall well-**
8 **being.**

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10 WHEREAS, The Women’s National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA) is the
11 first professional sports union for women and has promoted the interests, aspirations, and
12 long-term visions of Women’s National Basketball Associations (WNBA) players since 1998;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The members of the WNBPA are professional athletes who are employed
15 across 13 teams in 13 cities within the United States, including Golden State Valkyries in San
16 Francisco, who play at Chase Center, and five additional teams in the coming years in
17 Toronto, Canada; Portland, Oregon; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; and Philadelphia,
18 Pennsylvania; and

19 WHEREAS, The members of the WNBPA are professional athletes who are employed
20 across 13 teams in 13 cities within the United States, and who will be playing in San
21 Francisco in 2025, and four other additional teams in the coming years; and

22 WHEREAS, The members of the WNBPA are engaged in their sixth contract
23 negotiations with their employers for higher wages, better benefits, and professional working
24 conditions that reflect contributions and sacrifices for the growth and prosperity of women’s
25 basketball; and

1 WHEREAS, The players and their representatives at WNBPA have been negotiating
2 the terms of their new collective bargaining agreement with the WNBA for several months, but
3 these negotiations have not resulted in agreements that meet the needs of the players and
4 that both parties remain very far apart; and

5 WHEREAS, A key issue in the ongoing negotiations between the WNBA and the
6 WNBPA include players' demands regarding revenue sharing and salaries because currently,
7 players receive no shared revenue under the current Collective Bargaining Agreement
8 including from television deals, tickets, sponsorships, and merchandise sales; and

9 WHEREAS, This is in contrast with other major men's professional sports leagues:
10 National Basketball Association players receive 49 to 51%; National Football League players
11 receive at least 48.8%; and National Hockey League players receive 50% of their respective
12 shared revenue; and

13 WHEREAS, The contract negotiations come at a pivotal time for the WNBA which has
14 seen historic growth in recent years, including increases in revenue, average game
15 attendance at an all-time high, league expansion for the first time since 2008, and evaluations
16 of the current thirteen franchises of the WNBA increased by an average of 180% over the last
17 year; and

18 WHEREAS, The WNBPA's contract demands would promote gender pay equity and
19 would demonstrate women as valuable workers who deserve to be paid and treated
20 accordingly; and

21 WHEREAS, Women's professional sports, and the WNBA in particular, play a vital role
22 in promoting equity, representation, and economic activity in cities across the country; and

23 WHEREAS, The WNBPA's contract with the WNBA expires October 31, 2025; and

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1 WHEREAS, Failure to reach an agreement before the deadline could result in a strike,
2 lockout, or other labor disruptions that would have significant impacts on players, teams, fans,
3 and communities; and

4 WHEREAS, Labor unrest in professional sports has historically led to unintended
5 consequences, including economic losses for host cities, reduced opportunities for local
6 businesses, and diminished access to sporting events that inspire and uplift communities; and

7 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a proud and long-standing history of labor activism and
8 labor unions have helped to uplift workers by successfully advocating for higher wages,
9 access to benefits, and safe, healthy working conditions, advances that have been a key
10 driver of economic mobility and stability for whole communities in San Francisco; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco and the Board of Supervisors
13 hereby expresses its support of the members of the Women’s National Basketball Players
14 Association, and urges the Women’s National Basketball Association to work diligently and in
15 good faith to negotiate a contract settlement before the October 31, 2025, deadline that would
16 provide these workers equitable compensation, benefits, and improved working conditions
17 that prioritizes their health, safety, and well-being.

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