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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