

1 [Recognizing Nora Castañeda, President of the Women's Development Bank in Venezuela.]

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3 **Resolution recognizing the central role of Nora Castañeda, President of the Women's**
4 **Development Bank of Venezuela (Banmujer).**

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6 WHEREAS, Nora Castañeda, an economist, is the President of the Women's
7 Development Bank in Venezuela, committed to funding grassroots women's self-help projects
8 as a way to tackle poverty among the poorest families and communities in Venezuela; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. Castañeda has prioritized women's issues all her life dealing not only
10 with domestic violence, but with the economy and the distribution of income from grassroots
11 women's point of view; and

12 WHEREAS, Ms. Castañeda is of African and Indigenous descent like 80% of the
13 Venezuelan population and is committed to the eradication of poverty in which 80% of the
14 population lives; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Castañeda is working to build not only a bank, but a new way of life
16 for women, raising the status of women everywhere; and

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Castañeda was central to the 1999 constitutional process that is one
18 of the most advanced constitutions in the world, for women and Indigenous people, as well as
19 for all working people and all those who face discrimination on grounds of sex, race, age,
20 disability, political views or any other grounds; and

21 WHEREAS, Ms. Castañeda organized the daily picket of the Constituent Assembly
22 which won Article 88 of the constitution providing that: "The State guarantees equality and
23 equity between men and women in the exercise of their right to work. The State recognizes
24 work at home as a productive economic activity that creates added value and produces social
25

1 welfare and wealth. Housewives are entitled to Social Security in accordance with the law;"
2 and

3 WHEREAS, in addition to Article 88, women are visible throughout the Constitution,
4 which has incorporated the female gender in all the text. Other articles, laws and policies favor
5 women heads of households – 70% of households – who are given priority in the distribution
6 of unused land and housing; create breast milk banks and state schools in which one million
7 of the poorest children are receiving three free meals a day in order to improve children's
8 health; guarantee bilingual education, recognizing the language and culture of Indigenous
9 communities passed on from generation to generation by women; and funds an extensive
10 self-help adult literacy program; and now therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
12 Francisco hereby recognizes the significant contributions Ms. Nora Castañeda has made to
13 ensure that the Venezuelan economy be a caring economy, an economy at the service of
14 human beings, based on cooperation and mutual support, and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That since Ms. Castañeda's accomplishments serve as a
16 model for raising the status of women everywhere and better shaping the economy of San
17 Francisco and the world, the City and County of San Francisco declare that January 29, 2004
18 be Nora Castañeda Day in the City and County of San Francisco.