

1 [Legislative Chamber - Centennial Celebration - October 18, 2016]

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3 **Resolution declaring October 18, 2016, as the 100th Anniversary of the Board of**
4 **Supervisors Legislative Chamber, in recognition of the Centennial Celebration of the**
5 **first official Board of Supervisors meeting held in the Legislative Chamber; and**
6 **designating October 18, 2016, as the official date of the Celebration.**
7

8 WHEREAS, The 1906 earthquake was of an unusually severe magnitude and
9 many structures collapsed, streets and sewers were destroyed, water and gas main lines
10 were broken, and the electric light service was dismantled; thus shutting off the water and
11 light supply and leaving the Fire Department utterly unable to check the flames or rescue
12 individuals and property; and

13 WHEREAS, United States troops were called out to aid the Fire and Police
14 Departments since two-thirds of the City, which covered businesses and the most densely
15 populated residential sections, was entirely consumed by the destruction and they
16 resorted to dynamiting to stay the conflagration which continued for three days; and

17 WHEREAS, The principal Municipal buildings - City Hall and the Hall of Justice -
18 were destroyed along with their contents, including the regular meeting place of the Board
19 of Supervisors, namely it's Chamber on the second floor of City Hall of the City and
20 County of San Francisco, having been dismantled by the earthquake, and subsequently
21 devastated by the following fire; and

22 WHEREAS, The references to these extraordinary conditions which prevailed at
23 the time, and the general loss of life, property, and the great distress among the homeless
24 and afflicted forced to camp on the hills and in the public streets and parks, are central to
25 the subsequent actions of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the Legislative Branch

1 of Government, and are noted well and fully set forth herein within the archives of the
2 Board of Supervisors; and

3 WHEREAS, During the days subsequent to the calamity, the Board of Supervisors
4 busily engaged in endeavors to get the various departments into shape, so that all
5 functions of the Municipal Government could be resumed, but paramount to all actions
6 was the matter of establishing a temporary seat of Municipal Government at various
7 buildings, among the locations were "Mowry's Hall" in 1906 located at the corner of
8 Laguna and Grove Streets, and in 1907 at the "New Hall of Justice" located on Eddy
9 Street between Powell and Mason; and

10 WHEREAS, From the temporary Legislative Chamber, the Board created a special
11 committee on the reconstruction of San Francisco to order the redraft of the Fire and
12 Building Codes; collect the stray horses, buggies, and other vehicles; provide funds for
13 the sweeping and clearing of the City's streets; instruct private and public removal of
14 crumbled buildings, structures, debris, refuse, cinders or other obnoxious material;
15 prohibited the use of chimneys until inspected and hired chimney inspectors; authorized
16 merchants to provide food at reduced rates, such as J. Mahoney to furnish bread to the
17 City Institutions and residents, and to provision relief stations such as "Camp Forrest" to
18 enable the feeding of thousands of homeless - themselves without the facilities for
19 cooking; rebuild the Presidio and Ferries railroad; and widen and re-grade the streets; and

20 WHEREAS, As the immediate emergency was ameliorated, the Board of
21 Supervisors utilized the authority granted in 1849 by the State of California and authorized
22 \$8,000,000 in bonds to rebuild the City of San Francisco and a new City Hall, which was
23 handily rejected by the voters in 1909; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1910 the Board of Supervisors opened up bids for a temporary City
25 Hall to accommodate certain municipal offices and departments of San Francisco, and

1 requested and authorized San Francisco Mayor P.H. McCarthy to enter into a lease with
2 James Otis, sole trustee of the estate of A. C. Whitcomb, to be ready for occupancy within
3 eight months for the purpose of government offices to be located on Market Street; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1911 Mayor Jim “Sunny” Rolph was elected and promised to rebuild
5 a new City Hall with a new Civic Center, and in 1912 the voters approved an \$8,000,000
6 Bond and, despite the limited number of design architects registered in the State of
7 California in office design, a subsequent design competition commenced to design the
8 new City Hall; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1912 the winning design team was awarded to the Arthur Brown
10 firm of Bakewell and Brown, and in 1913 the groundbreaking ceremony initiated the
11 building of City Hall and the Legislative Chamber; and

12 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors moved the government offices from 1231
13 Market Street (Hotel Whitcomb) to the newly constructed City Hall in 1915 after the
14 dedication of the new City Hall in December 1915; and

15 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors continued to meet at 1231 Market Street
16 (Hotel Whitcomb) for an additional one year while the finishing touches were made to the
17 new Legislative Chamber; and

18 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors held its first official Board meeting in the
19 Legislative Chamber on October 9, 1916; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That in observance of the Legislative Chamber’s Centennial Celebration,
21 the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco declares October 18, 2016,
22 as the 100th Anniversary of the Legislative Chamber in recognition of the first official Board of
23 Supervisors meeting held in the Legislative Chamber, located on the second floor of City Hall,
24 on that day 100 years ago.