

1 [Recognizing John Sinclair]

2
3 **Resolution recognizing John Sinclair.**

4
5 WHEREAS, John Sinclair was born on October 2, 1941; and

6 WHEREAS, As a grade schooler, he started listening to rhythm and blues on the radio;
7 and,

8 WHEREAS, At college in the early 1960s he got interested in jazz, and,

9 WHEREAS, As a beginning poet and music writer came under the influence of LeRoi
10 Jones, Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Robert Creeley and Charles Olson, with whom he
11 studied at the Berkeley Poetry Conference in 1965, and,

12 WHEREAS, At Wayne State University in Detroit, he did his graduate thesis on William
13 S. Burroughs' *Naked Lunch*, began his long journalistic career as the Detroit correspondent
14 for *downbeat*, founded the Detroit Artists' Workshop, published his first book of poetry, *This Is*
15 *Our Music*, and began performing his verses onstage with Charles Moore & the Detroit
16 Contemporary 5, and,

17 WHEREAS, he was manager of the rock band the MC5, and,

18 WHEREAS, He was Chairman of the White Panther Party, a group inspired by and
19 supporting the Black Panther Party, and,

20 WHEREAS, Sinclair was arrested for giving two joints to an undercover officer and
21 sentenced in July 1969 to 10 years in prison, and,

22 WHEREAS, A campaign to free him culminated in a 1971 benefit concert headlined by
23 John Lennon and Yoko Ono at which Phil Ochs, Stevie Wonder, Allen Ginsberg, and Bobby
24 Seale appeared, and three days after the concert, the Michigan Supreme Court overturned
25 his conviction and he was released, having served two years, and,

1 WHEREAS, In 1972, his book *Guitar Army* was published, featuring his writings from
2 before and during prison, and,

3 WHEREAS, From 1972 to 1974, Sinclair co-produced the Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz
4 Festival, and,

5 WHEREAS, In May 1977 he was named as State Coordinator of Michigan NORML
6 (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws), and,

7 WHEREAS, In 1991 he moved to New Orleans, and,

8 WHEREAS, Since that time he has been performing spoken word backed by his band
9 The Blues Scholars, including a performance last week at Slim's here in San Francisco, and,

10 WHEREAS He has a radio show on WWOZ in New Orleans, which we in San
11 Francisco can listen to over the Internet, and,

12 WHEREAS, He is the author of books of poetry including "This Is Our Music", "Fire
13 Music: A Record"; "Meditations: A Suite for John Coltrane", "We Just Change The Beat:
14 Selected Poems", "Full Circle", and most recently, "Fattening Frogs For Snakes"; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
17 hereby congratulates John Sinclair on his multi-faceted lifetime of poetry, music, activism, and
18 inspiration.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 030187

Date Passed:

Resolution recognizing John Sinclair.

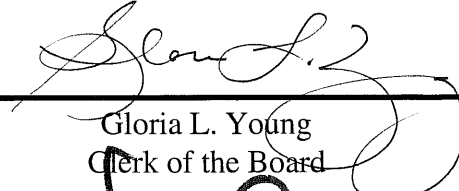
February 4, 2003 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Gonzalez, Hall, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick,
Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 030187

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution
was ADOPTED on February 4, 2003 by the
Board of Supervisors of the City and County
of San Francisco.

FEB 14 2003


Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.