

1 [Commending the organizers of the first annual Poem Under the Dome]

2 **Resolution commending the organizers of the first annual Poem Under the Dome**
3 **poetry open mic event in City Hall.**
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5 WHEREAS, On April 27th 2006, the first annual Poem Under the Dome, a poetry open
6 mic event, will take place in San Francisco's City Hall; and
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8 WHEREAS, April is National Poetry Month, inaugurated in 1996 to bring together
9 poets, students, libraries, publishers, literary organizations, to celebrate poetry and its vital
10 place in American culture; and

11 WHEREAS, Poem Under the Dome will be hosted by Diamond Dave Whitaker, a San
12 Francisco legend since 1957, who urges us all to cast a wide net, find the common thread,
13 let light flourish; don't panic, just keep it organic; and

14 WHEREAS, Open mic poetry readings, which invite everyone to participate without
15 compunction, regardless of their reputation, connections, sophistication, or punctuation, are a
16 San Francisco tradition that goes back to the Fifties when the poets of the Beat Generation
17 reestablished poetry as a vital art form of the people; and

18 WHEREAS, 2006 is the fiftieth anniversary of the publishing of Allen Ginsberg's poem
19 *Howl* by San Francisco's City Lights Press, a defining moment in American culture, which
20 Ginsberg described as an attempt to "disseminate a poem so strong that a clean Saxon four-
21 letter word might enter high school anthologies permanently and deflate tendencies toward
22 authoritarian strong-arming"; and

23 WHEREAS, Poem Under the Dome as a free poetry event open to all participants,
24 embodies such San Francisco values as appreciation for the literary arts and commitment to
25 democratic principles; and

1 WHEREAS, In our digital age where poetry and the written word are often
2 overshadowed by television, movies, and video games, it is important to remember the
3 directness and simplicity of poetry; and

4 WHEREAS, Poem Under the Dome is sponsored by the San Francisco Public Library,
5 the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor's office, City Lights Books, Poetry Flash, and the Beat
6 Museum; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and Country of San Francisco
8 hereby commends the organizers of the first annual Poem Under the Dome for bringing a free
9 open mic poetry event under the dome of San Francisco's City Hall.

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