

1 [Establishment of Little Saigon in the Tenderloin]

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3 **Resolution supporting the establishment of Little Saigon as a Vietnamese cultural and**
4 **commercial center in the Tenderloin.**

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6 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is home to one of the most diverse
7 population of immigrants who are an integral part of the City's cultural richness and economic
8 vibrancy; and,

9 WHEREAS, Since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, 35,000 Vietnamese
10 immigrants have settled in San Francisco; and

11 WHEREAS, Affordable housing and economic opportunities have led a significant
12 portion of this community, close to 10,000, to settle in the Tenderloin; and,

13 WHEREAS, In the past three decades, Vietnamese-owned small businesses in the
14 Tenderloin have increased dramatically; and,

15 WHEREAS, The Larkin Street Corridor from McAllister to Geary and surrounding
16 streets, have a significant concentration of Vietnamese-owned, family-run small businesses,

17 WHEREAS, This informal center of commerce have been dubbed "Little Saigon" as
18 early as 1991 by Mayor Art Agnos; and,

19 WHEREAS, For the more than a decade, the Vietnamese community has been
20 working towards the establishment of "Little Saigon" as a cultural and commercial center and
21 attraction; and

22 WHEREAS, The Little Saigon Project was formed as a collaboration of various
23 community organizations and institutions such as: the Vietnamese Elderly Mutually Assisted
24 Association, the Vietnamese Community Center, the Southeast Asian Community Center, the
25 Vietnamese Veterans Association, the Vietnamese Woman Mutually Assisted Association,

1 Vietnamese Buddhist Association of San Francisco, the First Baptist Church, Thanh Long
2 School and the St. Boniface Catholic Church; and

3 WHEREAS, The Little Saigon Project has been working with different City agencies
4 and departments towards the development of a visible cultural and commercial center that
5 would contribute to the cultural vibrancy of San Francisco and provide opportunities to reduce
6 crime and poverty, relieve unemployment, and promote economic independence of low-
7 income immigrant communities;

8 WHEREAS, The Little Saigon Project will be unfurling “Little Saigon” signage and
9 banners along the Larkin Street Corridor between McAllister and Geary by the end of the year
10 2003, as part the first phase of the establishment of this new cultural and commercial center;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
13 support the establishment of a “Little Saigon” as a Vietnamese cultural and commercial
14 center in the Tenderloin; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of San Francisco commends the efforts of the
16 Vietnamese community and the Little Saigon Project in developing “Little Saigon” as an effort
17 towards increased cultural visibility and vibrancy and economic opportunity and
18 independence.

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