

1 [Constitution and Citizenship Day in San Francisco - September 17, 2013]

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3 **Resolution commending the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Community**  
4 **Collaborative and declaring September 17, 2013, as Constitution Day and Citizenship**  
5 **Day in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, We are a nation and city of immigrants. The diversity of our backgrounds  
8 and experiences defines our character and our strengths. The principles of the U.S.  
9 Constitution defines our democracy and unites us as a people; and

10 WHEREAS, September 17th has been designated by Congress as Constitution Day  
11 and Citizenship Day in the United States. Constitution Day and Citizenship Day  
12 commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, and recognizes  
13 all who have become American citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Constitution is the oldest written national constitution in  
15 the world that is still active. It defines the structure of our federal government and the rights of  
16 each state in the union and of individual citizens.

17 WHEREAS, Constitution Day and Citizenship Day also recognizes aspiring immigrants  
18 who are taking steps to become U.S. citizens. Understanding the Constitution and the rights  
19 and responsibilities of citizenship are part of the naturalization process; and

20 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco join the  
21 Mayor, local officials, and civic and community leaders in recognizing the strength of the U.S.  
22 Constitution and reaffirm our commitment to the rights and obligations of all city residents,  
23 including citizens and immigrants; and

24 WHEREAS, Over one-third of San Francisco's population is immigrant and over  
25 101,000 (or one in eight) San Francisco residents are Legal Permanent Residents. On July 9,

1 2013, Mayor Edwin Lee launched the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative, a  
2 unique public/private/nonprofit partnership to help San Francisco immigrants navigate the  
3 process of applying for citizenship and promote civic engagement. Through the Office of Civic  
4 Engagement & Immigrant Affairs and five local philanthropic foundations, with technical  
5 assistance from Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees and the Immigrant  
6 Legal Resource Center, the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative seeks to build  
7 community, ensure economic mobility, and strengthen civic participation among new citizens;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Seven community-based organizations are collaborating as grantees to  
10 provide free legal and application assistance to naturalization-eligible immigrants. Led by  
11 Self-Help for the Elderly, the Collaborative includes: Asian Americans Advancing  
12 Justice/Asian Law Caucus, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Catholic Charities CYO,  
13 International Institute of the Bay Area, Jewish Family and Children’s Services, and La Raza  
14 Community Resource Center; now therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the San Francisco Pathways to  
16 Citizenship Community Collaborative members for their commitment to San Francisco’s  
17 vulnerable and immigrant communities, and recognizes them for their efforts to assist, engage  
18 and empower immigrants and new citizens; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
20 Francisco declares September 17, 2013, as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in San  
21 Francisco.

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