

1 [Recognizing Acoustic Neuroma Awareness Week - May 6 through 12, 2018]

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3 **Resolution recognizing May 6, 2018, through May 12, 2018, as Acoustic Neuroma Week**
4 **in San Francisco, and commending the Acoustic Neuroma Association for its ongoing**
5 **efforts to educate the public about this rare brain tumor and its mission to support**
6 **patients and family members of those affected by an acoustic neuroma diagnosis.**

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8 WHEREAS, An acoustic neuroma (AN) is a benign tumor of the eighth cranial nerve,
9 the vestibulocochlear nerve, which controls hearing and balance functions for the human
10 body; and

11 WHEREAS, Acoustic neuromas are very rare, affecting only about one in 100,000
12 people; and

13 WHEREAS, Acoustic neuromas can lead to single-sided deafness, tinnitus, balance
14 issues, facial paralysis, reduced vision, and cognitive and emotional challenges; and

15 WHEREAS, If left undetected and untreated, large AN tumors can press against the
16 brainstem, thereby impacting other vital body functions and becoming life-threatening; and

17 WHEREAS, Early detection of an acoustic neuroma is key to a patient’s understanding
18 of its affects and to a physician’s ability to track the tumor’s rate of growth; and

19 WHEREAS, Treatments for an acoustic neuroma include regular observation, radiation
20 therapy, and surgical removal by a craniotomy; and

21 WHEREAS, Surgery can worsen a patient’s symptoms, as other cranial nerves may be
22 disturbed during the operation; and

23 WHEREAS, Early symptoms of an AN include hearing loss on one side, sometimes
24 accompanied by ringing in the affected ear; unsteadiness or loss of balance; vertigo-like

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1 sensations; a feeling of fullness in the affected ear; facial numbness and weakness or loss of
2 muscle movement in the face; and

3 WHEREAS, The exact cause of acoustic neuromas is still unknown; and

4 WHEREAS, Founded by AN patients in 1981, the Acoustic Neuroma Association
5 (ANA) is a non-profit organization with national headquarters in Cumming, Georgia whose
6 mission is to be the premier resource to the acoustic neuroma community by informing,
7 educating, and supporting those affected by AN brain tumors; and

8 WHEREAS, The ANA is organizing a nationwide effort to raise awareness of acoustic
9 neuromas during the sixth annual “ANAwareness Week”, May 6, 2018, through May 12, 2018,
10 which falls within Brain Tumor Awareness Month; and

11 WHEREAS, Thousands of patients, caregivers, family members, and healthcare
12 professionals will participate in this national campaign to inform as many people as possible
13 about acoustic neuromas in an effort to increase early detection and to help provide patients
14 the tools they need to move forward following their diagnosis; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That members of the public are encouraged to seek a medical exam if
16 noticing hearing reduction on one side of their head or if they experience balance issues; and,
17 be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes
19 May 6, 2018, through May 12, 2018, as ANAwareness Week in the City and County of San
20 Francisco.

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