

1 [Commending Supervisor Dean Preston]

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3 **Resolution commending and honoring Dean Preston for his distinguished service as a**
4 **Supervisor for the City and County of San Francisco, and declaring January 7, 2025, as**
5 **Supervisor Dean Preston Day in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, Supervisor Dean Preston has proudly served District 5 and the City and
8 County of San Francisco for five years as a Member of the San Francisco Board of
9 Supervisors; and

10 WHEREAS, As the first Democratic Socialist elected to the San Francisco Board of
11 Supervisors in over 40 years, Supervisor Preston has approached his role with a steadfast
12 commitment to economic security, racial equity, and transformative change; and

13 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston is a 30-year resident of District 5, a public school
14 parent, an everyday Muni rider, a former small business owner, and a tireless advocate for
15 affordable housing and universal policies such as social housing, Medicare for All, and public
16 education; and

17 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston has demonstrated a strong record of championing and
18 delivering solutions to critical issues facing San Franciscans, including tenant protections,
19 housing justice, public transportation, and public safety alternatives; and

20 WHEREAS, Prior to his tenure as Supervisor, Dean Preston worked as a tenant
21 attorney and founded California’s only statewide tenant organization, leading the fight to save
22 rent control and championing landmark legislation such as Proposition F (2018) to provide
23 legal representation for thousands of tenants facing eviction; and

24 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston authored more than a dozen bills protecting tenants
25 from pandemic-related evictions, including a groundbreaking law in June 2020 that

1 permanently removed eviction as an option for COVID-19-related back rent, contributing to a
2 significant drop in evictions; and

3 WHEREAS, After promising during his 2020 inauguration speech that billionaires were
4 right to oppose him because he was coming for their billions, Supervisor Preston led the effort
5 to tax high-end real estate transactions to fund social housing, raising over \$300 million to
6 date from Proposition I (2020) by taxing the wealthiest real estate investors; and

7 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston secured more than \$40 million in local funds for rent
8 relief, the most of any California city, relieving more than 20,000 tenants of crushing rent debt
9 and preventing evictions; and

10 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston has led on efforts to build affordable housing in District
11 5 and citywide, delivering \$112 million through a 2022 budget deal premised on Proposition I
12 (2020) revenues for site acquisitions, affordable housing development including educator
13 housing, and public housing and SRO repairs, while working with state leaders to win historic
14 plans to rebuild the DMV site with affordable housing, and championing over 2,000 new units
15 of housing in District 5; and

16 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston spearheaded efforts to acquire sites for housing
17 homeless individuals, including securing 114 units of permanent supportive housing at the
18 Gotham Hotel and an emergency family drop-in shelter at the Oasis Inn; and

19 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston has been a national leader in legislative efforts,
20 including passing the only U.S. law to relieve small business owners of pandemic back rent,
21 despite facing legal challenges from commercial landlords; and

22 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston wrote and championed the Voter Participation Act
23 passed as Prop H (2022), which consolidated odd and even year elections to increase voter
24 participation on important citywide races including elections for Mayor; and

25

1 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston led efforts to restore critical Muni lines suspended
2 during the pandemic, prevented fare increases for public transportation, and advocated for
3 safe streets with protected bike lanes, slow streets, and car-free spaces such as JFK Drive;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston has championed alternatives to policing, supporting
6 community ambassadors, crisis response teams, and neighborhood health outreach teams,
7 while consistently opposing excessive increases to police budgets; and

8 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston successfully passed a resolution by a supermajority in
9 January 2024 to put San Francisco on record in support of a sustained ceasefire, release of
10 hostages, and massive humanitarian aid in Gaza, putting San Francisco on record as the
11 largest city at the time to call for a ceasefire; and

12 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston championed the creation of a Public Bank, wrote and
13 passed legislation to create the Reinvestment Working Group, and then secured approval of
14 the Business and Governance plans produced by the Reinvestment Working Group, setting
15 the stage for San Francisco to access federal green investment funds and to invest our tax
16 dollars in in our communities, housing, and green infrastructure through our own banking
17 institution; and

18 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston has, in the face of a Trump presidency and a rising
19 rightward shift, fought tirelessly for working people and their economic prosperity; and

20 WHEREAS, Supervisor Preston, along with other progressive members of the Board,
21 received death threats from rightwing technocrats because Preston’s politics are progressive
22 and focused on redistribution of resources to those with the most need; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the residents of this City,
24 recognize Supervisor Dean Preston’s extensive and unique contributions towards
25 fundamental fairness for low-income and working people of San Francisco, and that his

1 compassion, moral clarity, and commitment to serve and mobilize the working class
2 movement in a collective effort to reverse centuries of oppression, inequality, and injustice,
3 were critical in a City rocked by gentrification and rising inequality; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitably engrossed copy of this Resolution be tendered
5 to Supervisor Dean Preston as a token of the great affection and respect in which he is held
6 by the Board of Supervisors and express to him their appreciation for his high-quality work,
7 their thanks for his presence and their high hopes for his future; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares January 7, 2025, as
9 Supervisor Dean Preston Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

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