

1 [National Hepatitis Awareness Month - May 2014]

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3 **Resolution declaring May 2014 as National Hepatitis Awareness Month in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco, with the goal of raising awareness of Hepatitis B and C,**
5 **encouraging residents to know their hepatitis status, and supporting efforts to make**
6 **San Francisco the first City in America to be free of hepatitis.**

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8 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B and C are the leading cause of liver cancer and liver
9 transplants, with San Francisco having the highest rate in the nation, and afflict an estimated
10 4.4 million Americans; and

11 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islanders make up 5 percent of the U.S. population and
12 36 percent of the population of the City and County of San Francisco, but account for 50
13 percent of Americans living with Hepatitis B; and

14 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B infection and liver cancer remain the greatest health disparity
15 for Asian and Pacific Islanders, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
16 (CDC) has recommended that all residents born in Asia and the Pacific Islands get tested for
17 Hepatitis B; and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed Resolution
19 659-06 in November 2006 establishing the “goal of universal Hepatitis B screening and
20 vaccination for Asian and Pacific Islander residents of San Francisco,” and the San Francisco
21 Health Commission unanimously passed a companion resolution endorsing that goal,
22 Resolution 16-06 in December 2006; and

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a leader in the nation for Hepatitis B prevention
24 efforts with Chinese Hospital holding the first community screenings and San Francisco
25 General Hospital providing the first universal infant immunizations in America; and

1 WHEREAS, The CDC has highlighted San Francisco’s awareness efforts by
2 announcing new guidelines for expanded national Hepatitis B screening at Chinatown
3 Community Health Center in San Francisco on September 18, 2008; and

4 WHEREAS, Adults born from 1945 to 1965 are five times as likely to be infected with
5 Hepatitis C, and the CDC has recommended that all adults born during those years get tested
6 for Hepatitis C; and

7 WHEREAS, May 19, 2014, is the third National Hepatitis Testing Day established in the
8 Action Plan for the Prevention & Treatment of Viral Hepatitis to raise awareness of this silent
9 epidemic; and

10 WHEREAS, SF Hep B Free, SF Hep C Task Force, and National Viral Hepatitis Round
11 Table have partnered with local, state and federal officials to launch an updated Viral Hepatitis
12 Action Plan at a May 17, 2014, press conference; and

13 WHEREAS, SF Hep B Free, SF Hep C Task Force, API Wellness Center, the
14 California Pacific Medical Center and Asian Week Foundation provided free Hepatitis B and C
15 testing at the 10th Annual Hills Physicians Asian Heritage Street Celebration; and

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a part of a five city national coordinated campaign that
17 has launched public service announcements through CBS Health Watch to increase
18 screening activity in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and Seattle; now, there
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commends all the
21 dedicated organizations and volunteers who serve San Francisco with their advocacy and
22 prevention efforts for Hepatitis B and C; and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all
24 healthcare institutions and providers to increase clinician education on the importance of
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1 incorporating hepatitis screenings in the routine healthcare checkup of all individuals as
2 directed by national guidelines; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all Asian
4 and Pacific Islander residents of San Francisco and other high target communities to know
5 their hepatitis status by getting screened and to urge their friends and families to also be
6 screened.

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