

1 [Honoring Joe Vazquez]

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3 **Resolution honoring San Francisco newsman, Joe Vazquez, on the occasion of his**
4 **retirement from thirty-five years in broadcast journalism, with sixteen of those years at**
5 **KPIX Channel 5.**

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7 WHEREAS, Joe Vazquez announced that January 7, 2021, would be his last
8 appearance in front of the camera as a newscaster for KPIX Channel 5, where he reported on
9 the attempted coup d'etat of the nation's Capitol Building in an attempt to undermine the
10 election of President Joseph Biden Jr. as the 46th President of the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Vazquez's career in broadcast journalism has spanned thirty-five years,
12 and while it has taken him to Houston, Philadelphia, San Antonio and Lubbock, he has made
13 a life reporting on every major Bay Area story for KPIX Channel 5 and raising his children in
14 San Francisco's North Beach for the last sixteen years; and

15 WHEREAS, Vazquez has braved the frontlines of hurricanes, riots, earthquakes, fires
16 and crime scenes to bring the public accurate news and humanizing stories told by and for
17 everyday people who define the heart and soul of the San Francisco Bay Area; and

18 WHEREAS, In June 2018, Vazquez and his team were awarded the Regional Emmy
19 Award for coverage of the North Bay Fires and their impact on California's recovering
20 communities, and in September 2010, he won the National Emmy Award for Breaking News
21 coverage of the Oakland riots following the murder of Oscar Grant at the hands of a BART
22 policeman, as well as earning two other Emmy awards and multiple Emmy nominations; and

23 WHEREAS, While backpacking in September of 2001, Vazquez was called to work for
24 NBC News briefly as a freelance correspondent in Southern Turkey, covering military
25 operations near Turkey's border with Iraq; and

1 WHEREAS, Vazquez is a proud SAG-AFTRA union member and has advocated for
2 better working conditions for journalists at the frontlines, particularly in light of the COVID-19
3 pandemic threats to the health and well-being of frontline workers; and

4 WHEREAS, Vazquez has mentored and elevated other Latino journalists, even before
5 widespread calls for the media industry to diversify representation behind and in front of the
6 camera, including as a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and as a
7 semi-regular host of KPIX Channel 5’s Latino Heritage Month tribute over the last sixteen
8 years, which showcases Latino culture and talent but also the struggles and issues facing the
9 Latino population throughout the Bay Area and California; and

10 WHEREAS, It is rare to find a reporter who is so enamored with the craft of journalism
11 and storytelling, but Joe Vazquez, who literally created the social media handle
12 @joenewsman, has embodied that hunger for chasing down breaking news and bringing
13 human stories to life, even naming his blues band “The Eyewitness Blues Band” known
14 throughout San Francisco by their tagline “bringing you rock’n’roll on deadline;” and

15 WHEREAS, Joe Vazquez has been an integral piece of the public media and North
16 Beach communities for the past sixteen years of service to the San Francisco Bay Area and
17 beyond; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco do
19 hereby honor Joe Vazquez on the occasion of his retirement from thirty-five years of
20 broadcast journalism, sixteen of those years at KPIX Channel 5 and thank him for his service.

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