

1 [World Prematurity Day - November 17, 2015]

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3 **Resolution declaring November 17, 2015, as World Prematurity Day in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, "World Prematurity Day" is a chance to raise awareness about the topic of
7 prematurity on the local, national and international level; and

8 WHEREAS, Preterm birth can happen to any pregnant woman, and in approximately
9 four out of every ten cases, the cause is unknown; and

10 WHEREAS, Worldwide approximately one in every ten children is born premature, and
11 every year about 15,000,000 children are born too early; and

12 WHEREAS, Prematurity is the leading cause of death for newborn babies, and,
13 compared to most industrialized countries, the United States has a high rate of preterm birth,
14 as each year more than 450,000 preterm births, affecting 11.5% of all babies, occur in this
15 nation; and

16 WHEREAS, In the United States, the annual cost of these serious health
17 consequences is estimated to be more than \$26,000,000,000; and

18 WHEREAS, Preterm children represent the largest child patient group, and the number
19 of preterm births continues to increase even as the total number of overall births is steadily
20 decreasing; and

21 WHEREAS, Despite this high number and the risks involved, the public is not fully
22 aware of the prevention of preterm birth and the problems and risks involved in the
23 development of a preterm child; and

24 WHEREAS, Although children may survive preterm birth, some may require special
25 medical care requiring weeks or months of hospitalization, and oftentimes these children face

1 adverse health conditions over the course of their lives, such as chronic respiratory problems;
2 cerebral palsy; a higher risk of learning, behavioral and intellectual disabilities; vision and
3 hearing loss; feeding and digestive problems; sensory and motor deficits; infections; and
4 cardiovascular diseases or diabetes, compared to their full-term counterparts; and

5 WHEREAS, Although doctors have made exceptional progress in the care of
6 premature babies, more research is needed to increase the medical community's
7 understanding of the risk factors for premature birth; and

8 WHEREAS, Researchers agree that better screening tests need to be developed to
9 identify women likely to give birth early, as well as treatments that can be used early to
10 interrupt the cascade of events leading to prematurity; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors honors November 17, 2015, as "World
12 Prematurity Day" in San Francisco and recognize the serious public health concern of
13 prematurity in birth and the compelling need to reduce the incidence of preterm births in the
14 City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the researchers at
16 the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals in San Francisco and Oakland for their efforts toward
17 preventing preterm birth, infant mortality and birth defects by educating and supporting
18 women and families regarding healthy birth.

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