

1 [Commendation for Lateefah Simon]

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3 **Resolution commending Lateefah Simon for her exceptional work as the Executive**
4 **Director of the Center for Young Women’s Development and for being named as a**
5 **recipient of the 2003 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.**

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7 WHEREAS, Lateefah Simon began working at the Center for Young Women’s
8 Development (CYWD) in San Francisco in the Street Survival Outreach Program in 1993; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1997, at the age of nineteen, Lateefah became the Center’s Executive
10 Director; and,

11 WHEREAS, Under her leadership, CYWD became a remarkable resource for low-
12 income girls and young women, providing the skills and resources to help them break the
13 cycle of poverty; and,

14 WHEREAS, As Executive Director of CYWD, Lateefah Simon hired young women who
15 have faced similar challenges to serve as mentors, providing them job training, health
16 insurance, and a living wage; and,

17 WHEREAS, By tapping into the talent and experiences of street-smart young women,
18 Lateefah helped build camaraderie among young women which in itself has become a source
19 of strength and resource for this disadvantaged community; and,

20 WHEREAS, On October 5, 2003, Lateefah was named with 23 other individuals as a
21 recipient of the prestigious John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship,
22 where she will receive \$500,000 in “no strings attached” support for the next five years; and,

23 WHEREAS, MacArthur candidates are nominated, evaluated, and selected through a
24 rigorous and confidential process, and Fellows are selected for the originality and creativity of
25 their work and their great potential to make significant contributions to our society;

1 WHEREAS, Lateefah Simon’s selection as a MacArthur Fellow is not only an honor to
2 her, but also to all the women of CYWD for their commitment and success in improving
3 conditions for low-income young women in San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors commend Lateefah Simon for her immense
5 leadership, diligence, resourcefulness, and vision in effectively addressing the needs and
6 challenges of young and of low-income women in our society; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors support the mission and
8 continuing work of the Center for Young Women’s Development supporting young women of
9 San Francisco to garner employable skills and develop leadership potential; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco congratulate
11 Lateefah Simon on being selected as a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
12 Fellow.