

1 [Halloween in the Castro]

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Resolution recognizing and establishing Halloween in the Castro as an official City event, encouraging the involvement and cooperation of City Agencies to prepare for this year’s Halloween and identifying the basic parameters of this event.

WHEREAS, It is estimated that as many as 500,000 persons attended Halloween 2002 in the Castro neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, In recent years Halloween became an unpermitted event, with no central entity assuming coordination for one of the largest annual City gatherings and only public safety agencies making contingency plans to anticipate problems; and

WHEREAS, Halloween 2002 became an out of control event with five stabbings, numerous fights due to public intoxication, and dangerous costumes that included swords and even a chainsaw; and,

WHEREAS, The potential for a disaster at last year’s Halloween is now even more significant given that Halloween 2003 falls on a Friday; and,

WHEREAS, The illegal consumption of alcohol from open containers and resulting intoxication of many participants contributes to violent and unruly crowd behavior; and,

WHEREAS, No community group has the resources to organize such a large event; and,

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a responsibility to provide for the safety of residents and visitors on Halloween; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Halloween in the Castro shall be an official City sponsored event; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco plan, fund and
2 coordinate Halloween in the Castro; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That a working group of City agencies, including SFPD,
4 SFFD, MUNI, DPT and DPH, among others, create a comprehensive public safety plan for
5 Halloween in the Castro including checkpoints at the entrances and fire access lanes; and, be
6 it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this event have a defined perimeter within which open
8 container laws shall be vigorously enforced and a zero tolerance policy toward open
9 containers of alcohol shall be mandated; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the district 8 Supervisor will convene a community safe-
11 Halloween Planning Committee that includes representatives from numerous community non-
12 profit organizations, Castro residents and merchants associations and others interested in
13 planning a safe and fun Halloween in the Castro; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESPOVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges public advertising
15 entities to contribute free space to educate potential attendees from throughout the Bay Area
16 of the community standards that will be enforced and of the expected conduct by attendees
17 with respect to prohibiting public consumption of alcohol, dangerous costumes or violent or
18 threatening behavior.

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Name of Supervisor/Committee/Department

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS