

1 [Food Runners 30th Anniversary - Food Runners Day - April 7, 2017]

2

3 **Resolution commending Food Runners, and its founder Mary Risley, on the occasion**
4 **of the organization's 30th year delivering excess food to those in need; and declaring**
5 **April 7, 2017, as Food Runners Day in the City and County of San Francisco.**

6

7 WHEREAS, In 1987, Mary Risley, founder of a local cooking school, founded Food
8 Runners, an organization dedicated to picking up excess uneaten food from local businesses
9 in order to distribute it to charities feeding the hungry in San Francisco; and

10 WHEREAS, Food Runners started out of Mary Risley's own home as a network
11 connecting businesses and local agencies via telephones and a small group of volunteers;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, By the early 90s, Food Runners launched the Planned Overage program,
14 in which participating restaurants use leftover ingredients to create meals for 25 to 30 people;
15 and by 1997, Food Runners had the means to hire a full-time truck driver to transfer large
16 amounts of food every day; and

17 WHEREAS, Over 30 years since its humble origins, Food Runners continues to grow,
18 with the San Francisco Chronicle noting that in 2014 alone, the amount of food donations to
19 Food Runners spiked 50 percent, and with copy-cat organizations springing up around the
20 Bay Area; and

21 WHEREAS, Food Runners now has over 250 active volunteers and sources excess
22 perishable and prepared food from more than 450 restaurants, caterers, grocery stores,
23 farmers' markets and other businesses; and

24

25

1 WHEREAS, On a shoestring budget and with a small staff, Food Runners now
2 facilitates the delivery of over 17 tons per week of perishable and prepared food to people in
3 need; and

4 WHEREAS, Among the fundamental tenets of the Food Runners mission is to reduce
5 food waste, which, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
6 occurs at an astonishing rate of one third of the food produced in the world for human
7 consumption, or approximately 1.3 billion tons of wasted food per year; and

8 WHEREAS, Even if just one-fourth of the food currently lost or wasted globally could be
9 saved, it would be enough to feed 870 million hungry people in the world; and

10 WHEREAS, Mary Risley has earned numerous honors for her work to reduce food
11 waste and redistribute excess food to those in need, including being named by the San
12 Francisco Chronicle as one of the most influential people in the Bay Area, and being named
13 “Humanitarian of the Year” by the James Beard Foundation; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby commends Mary
15 Risley and Food Runners on the occasion of their 30th year of reducing food waste and
16 redistributing food to those in need; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors declares April 7,
18 2017, to be Food Runners Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

19
20
21
22
23
24
25