

1 **[San Francisco African American Historical & Cultural Society.]**

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3 **Resolution recognizing and commending the San Francisco African American**  
4 **Historical & Cultural Society for their dedication and commitment to contributing to the**  
5 **development and growth of San Francisco’s African American community.**  
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7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco African American Historical & Cultural Society (the  
8 “Society”) was founded in 1955 by James Herndon, Esq. and a group of young African  
9 American men and women who recognized the need for a forum where African Americans  
10 and others could come together to analyze, discuss devise strategies to address pertinent  
11 local, national and international issues; and,

12 WHEREAS, The Society is the lineal descendant of the Athenaeum Library Company,  
13 a literary society that was established by members of San Francisco’s African American  
14 community in the 1850’s; and,

15 WHEREAS, The Society’s mission is to contribute to the growth and development of  
16 San Francisco’s African American community by documenting and presenting true accounts  
17 of its history; promoting the study and appreciation of African American history and culture,  
18 particularly by African American youth; and by continuing to provide a discussion forum and  
19 African-American life and history; and,

20 WHEREAS, For the past 49years the Society has consistently presented exhibits and  
21 programs of the highest quality that accurately reflect the contributions of African Americans  
22 to the broader community; and,

23 WHEREAS, The Society’s Library and Archives are an invaluable to educators,  
24 students, scholars, writers, film makers and the general public who seek accurate information  
25

1 and historic documents and artifacts that tell the story of African Americans in San Francisco;  
2 and,

3 WHEREAS, In 1958 the Society merged with the local chapter of the Association for  
4 Study of African American Life and History, and thereby becoming the official sponsor of  
5 Black History Month in San Francisco; and,

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7 WHEREAS, Since 1991 the Society has sponsored the official kickoff to Black History  
8 Month in the Rotunda of City Hall; and,

9 WHEREAS, Over the years the Society and its members have been at the forefront of  
10 efforts to improve the quality of life for all San Franciscans; and,

11 WHEREAS, The Society is a membership organization, with membership open to all  
12 who support the Society's mission; and,

13 WHEREAS, The Society collaborates with institutions from other communities to  
14 present programs and exhibits that highlight the contributions of each group and demonstrate  
15 the values of collaboration and cooperation; and,

16 WHEREAS, The Society is best position to help African American and other youth  
17 develop a deeper appreciation of who they are, where they come from and where their  
18 responsibility to the community; and,

19 WHEREAS, Throughout its history the Society has hosted leading African and African  
20 American dignitaries during visits to San Francisco; and, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisor  
22 recognized and commend the San Francisco African American Historical & Cultural Society  
23 for their dedication and commitment to contributing to the growth and development of San  
24 Francisco's African American community.

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\*\*Supervisor Maxwell\*\*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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