

1 [Commemorating National Prematurity Awareness Month]

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3 **Resolution commemorating National Prematurity Awareness Month, acknowledging**
4 **that premature birth is a serious, common and costly problem. The etiology of**
5 **premature birth is unknown and can happen to any pregnant woman. We hope all of**
6 **you will join us in the campaign to reduce premature birth by supporting research,**
7 **educating the public and health care providers about this critical issue.**

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9 WHEREAS, The concern for the African American community in San Francisco as they
10 have the highest percentage of preterm births, 15.2%; and

11 WHEREAS, premature birth threatens the lives and health of more than half a million
12 infants every year, including over 54,000 in California and the number is rising; and

13 WHEREAS, between 1994 and 2004, the rate of infants born premature in California
14 increased by 7%, and that premature birth is the number one killer of newborns in America;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, infants who survive may be disabled for life which includes blindness and
17 cerebral palsy and premature birth is a national health crisis that must be stopped; and

18 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is leading a national effort to save infants from
19 premature birth by funding research to find the causes and by supporting local programs that
20 offer hope and help to families with an infant in intensive care; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, that the City and County of San Francisco recognize November 2006 as
22 Prematurity Awareness Month and commend the March of Dimes their efforts to promote and
23 provide support for all infants and mothers facing prematurity.

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