

1 [Commending Monica Walters]

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3 **Resolution recognizing and commending Monica Walters on the occasion of her**
4 **retirement, and for her many years serving the children and families in the City and**
5 **County of San Francisco.**
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7 WHEREAS, In 2009, Monica relocated to San Francisco following a decades-long
8 career in nonprofit leadership in Washington State, accepting the position of Executive
9 Director of the Donaldina Cameron House and guiding the work of that historic agency for
10 three years; and

11 WHEREAS, Monica quickly immersed herself in the San Francisco community and
12 social services networks, focusing especially on the underserved children and families in
13 Chinatown; and

14 WHEREAS, Monica helped to advance the work of the API Council, serving on the
15 Steering Committee for several years; was active in the San Francisco Domestic Violence
16 Consortium; and also served on the Board of NICOS Chinese Health Coalition; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2012, Monica joined Wu Yee Children's Services as CEO to pursue her
18 passion in advancing equity for those children who are most often marginalized and have
19 historically been furthest from opportunity; which included supporting every child's family with
20 essential services; and

21 WHEREAS, When San Francisco State University Head Start programs closed in
22 2013-2014 and Wu Yee was awarded the new Federal grant, Monica successfully led the
23 rapid expansion of Wu Yee from 6 to 12 early learning centers, becoming San Francisco's
24 largest Early Head Start/Head Start program; and
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1 WHEREAS, Monica was an instrumental leader in the community-led effort to pass
2 Baby Prop C, working alongside Supervisor Norman Yee, the champion of this
3 transformational movement, to bring vital funding to our Early Childhood Education system in
4 San Francisco; and

5 WHEREAS, Monica diligently served on the Early Childhood Community Oversight and
6 Advisory Committee and has been a commendable advocate ensuring that Baby Prop C is
7 fully implemented as intended by the voters; and

8 WHEREAS, Monica led the charge for increased reimbursement rates from the State of
9 California, working successfully with San Francisco colleagues to raise rates by nearly 20%
10 for our providers of early education and child care; and

11 WHEREAS, Monica Walters has worked tirelessly for San Francisco's children and
12 families who are most at need, guiding Wu Yee and many in San Francisco's early education
13 community through a period of transformation; and

14 WHEREAS, Monica fulfilled the promise of moving Wu Yee toward a comprehensive
15 multilingual and multiracial service model, reaching into San Francisco's Black, Latinx, and
16 Pacific Islander neighborhoods, while broadening support for the Asian communities Wu Yee
17 has historically served; and

18 WHEREAS, Monica believes nothing is more essential than excellent child care and
19 education for all our children right from the start and is committed to partnering with parents,
20 individuals, and organizations across the State to provide a network that strengthens and
21 connects a diverse, resilient community around our children; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes, celebrates, and
23 commends Monica Walters on the occasion of her retirement and extends their deepest
24 gratitude for her many years serving the children and families in the City and County of San
25 Francisco.