

1 [Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women - May 5]

2

3 **Resolution recognizing May 5 as the national day of awareness for Honoring Missing**
4 **and Murdered Indigenous Women.**

5

6 WHEREAS, Indigenous people have inhabited the North American continent, including
7 the State of California, for many centuries, and from the first contact with settlers from other
8 countries, Native Americans shared their knowledge of the land and its resources, and have
9 continued to play a vital role in the development of local communities, the State of California,
10 and the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls Report from the
12 Urban Indian Health Institute released in 2019 provides data from 71 urban cities across the
13 United States on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls; recognizes that a
14 number of factors, including poor data collection by law enforcement and limited health
15 resources, that there is an undercount of missing and murdered indigenous women (MMIW) in
16 urban areas; and finds that San Francisco ranks tenth among cities with highest number of
17 MMIW cases; and

18 WHEREAS, The 2009 Apology to Native People of the U.S. recognized the special
19 legal and political relationship Indian tribes have with the United States and the solemn
20 covenant with the land we share; recognized that there have been years of official
21 depredation, ill-conceived policies, and the breaking of covenants by the Federal Government
22 regarding Indian tribes; apologized on behalf of the people of the United States to all Native
23 Peoples for the many instances of violence, maltreatment, and neglect inflicted on Native
24 Peoples by citizens of the United States; and commended the State governments that have
25 begun reconciliation efforts with Native American tribes located in their boundaries and

1 encourage all State governments to work toward reconciling relationships with Indian tribes
2 within their boundaries; and

3 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a responsibility to address the
4 disproportionate rates of victimization of indigenous women from domestic and sexual
5 violence, including missing and murdered indigenous women; and;

6 WHEREAS, Jessica Nicole Alva (Blackfeet, Aztec, Yaqui) died on April 6, 2019, at the
7 age of 35 after being in a coma for four days as a result of an abusive domestic relationship;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Jessica grew up in Redding and lived in San Francisco for five years and
10 is survived by her mother Cindy Martin-Wolfe, six children, and four siblings with a step-
11 brother and step-sister; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2005, the grassroots movement for the safety of indigenous women led
13 the struggle to include Title IX: Safety for Indian Women under the Violence Against Women
14 Act. One of the findings of this title was that during the period of 1979 through 1992, homicide
15 was the third-leading cause of death of Native American women aged 15 to 34; and

16 WHEREAS, Since that time, a study by the U.S. Department of Justice has found that
17 in some tribal communities, Native American women face murder rates that are more than ten
18 times the national average; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the last decade, awareness of this national issue has increased but
20 more must be done at all levels to stop the disappearances and save lives; and

21 WHEREAS, May 5, 2017, was designated as the first national day of awareness for
22 Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women through the efforts of surviving families,
23 Native American tribes, national Indigenous organizations, and law and policy makers; now,
24 therefore, be it

25

1 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco permanently designates May
2 5 as Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Day in the City and County of San
3 Francisco; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will begin
5 discussions with urban Native American organizations, neighboring Native American tribes,
6 and local tribal organizations to develop recommendations for local and indigenous victim
7 advocacy services, local and tribal justice responses, including coordination, and identify and
8 implement solutions to strengthen the safety, health, and well-being of indigenous women.

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25