

1 [Commemorating the ARC/AIDS Vigil]

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3 **Resolution recognizing the historic significance of the ARC/AIDS Vigil and encouraging**  
4 **the City and County of San Francisco to place a plaque on or near the site of the**  
5 **ARC/AIDS Vigil.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, On October 27, 1985, two HIV-positive gay men chained themselves to  
8 the doors of the old federal building located at 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, to  
9 protest the United States government's inaction in the face of the deadly AIDS epidemic; and,

10 WHEREAS, These two brave HIV-positive gay men were soon joined by a dedicated  
11 group of volunteers who through their efforts began what is officially known as the "ARC  
12 (AIDS Related Complex)/AIDS Vigil", a decade-long demonstration that brought needed  
13 awareness about the AIDS epidemic and our federal government's failure to respond to it;  
14 and,

15 WHEREAS, These courageous men and women braved the elements, condemnation  
16 from passersby, and repeated efforts to remove them from 50 UN Plaza; and,

17 WHEREAS, Numerous San Franciscans, including elected officials such as then  
18 Supervisors Harry Britt and Nancy Walker, participated in the vigil by chaining themselves to  
19 the old federal building and even being arrested, thereby bringing more attention to the  
20 demonstration; and,

21 WHEREAS, participants of the vigil presented four demands to our federal  
22 government, including the need to publicly recognize AIDS, condemn AIDS-related  
23 discrimination, allow physicians to prescribe medicines and treatments to AIDS patients, and  
24 begin a "Manhattan Project" type effort to fight the AIDS epidemic; and,

1           WHEREAS, The ARC/AIDS Vigil was a turning point in the fight against the AIDS  
2 epidemic, helping to awaken the conscience of the City and push for action by our federal  
3 government; and,

4           WHEREAS, The ARC/AIDS Vigil ended in December 1995; and,

5           WHEREAS, It is critical that we as a City preserve our history and do not forget the  
6 significance of the demonstration; now, therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby officially recognizes  
8 the historic significance of the ARC/AIDS Vigil; and, be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby honors  
10 the contributions of all the brave men and women who participated in the ARC/AIDS Vigil;  
11 and, be it

12           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby  
13 commemorates the memory and contributions of these brave men and women and calls upon  
14 the government of the City and County of San Francisco to place a plaque on or near the site  
15 of the ARC/AIDS Vigil so that we and future generations never forget what happened during  
16 the fateful period of October 1985 through December 1995; and, be it

17           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon the  
18 government of the City and County of San Francisco to take any other steps that would be  
19 appropriate and necessary to commemorate the ARC/AIDS Vigil.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails

Resolution

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 110752

Date Passed: June 21, 2011

Resolution recognizing the historic significance of the ARC/AIDS Vigil and encouraging the City and County of San Francisco to place a plaque on or near the site of the ARC/AIDS Vigil.

June 21, 2011 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Avalos, Chiu, Chu, Cohen, Elsbernd, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Mirkarimi and Wiener

Absent: 1 - Campos

File No. 110752

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/21/2011 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

UNSIGNED

Mayor Edwin Lee

7/1/11

Date Approved

Date: July 1, 2011

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

  
Clerk of the Board

File No.  
110752