

1 [Recognizing November as National Native American Heritage Month]

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3 **Resolution recognizing November 1, 2021, through November 30, 2021, as National**
4 **Native American Heritage Month for their contributions to our nation and as first**
5 **peoples of San Francisco, celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans**
6 **and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and encouraging all**
7 **people to participate in activities and events to learn about and understand the**
8 **contribution of indigenous people to this land.**

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10 WHEREAS, From November 1, 2021, through November 30, 2021, San Francisco and
11 the United States celebrate National Native American Heritage Month; and

12 WHEREAS, National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider
13 and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to their longstanding history in San
14 Francisco and the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Native Americans are the original indigenous inhabitants of what is now
16 the United States with over 500 Nations across the United States and over 150 federally
17 recognized and 75 non-federally recognized Nations petitioning for recognition in California;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco was originally inhabited by the
20 Yelamu, an independent tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, where an estimated 1500
21 inhabitants lived when the Spanish arrived in the 16th Century; and

22 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco formally recognized in 2019 the
23 American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco as a virtual Cultural Center. The first
24 American Indian Center (AIC) in San Francisco started in the 1940's to create an identity for
25 American Indian people, providing programing space and resources for American Indians in

1 the Urban areas. These community and cultural centers hold a strong history and cultural
2 foundation for American Indians in San Francisco; and

3 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco established the American Indian
4 Cultural District in March of 2020 to honor, recognize, and celebrate the American Indian
5 legacy, culture, people, and contributions and maintain American Indian sacred spaces and
6 traditions to elevate a deep-rooted sense of community; and

7 WHEREAS, The Indian Relocation Act of 1956 which moved over 750,000 American
8 Indians off their ancestral lands into cities such as San Francisco where they would be forced
9 to assimilate. American Indian cultural centers became the cultural foundation for American
10 Indians in Urban communities resulting in California being one of the highest populations of
11 relocated inter-tribal Nations. Today 90 percent of American Indian populations live in urban
12 cities like San Francisco; and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco serves as a catalyst city to many American Indian actions
14 across the nation notably the historic occupation of Alcatraz which began November 20,
15 1969, and was one of the longest protests in history lasting 19 months and served as an
16 international platform for bringing visibility to Indian termination policies broken and unratified
17 treaties, exposing the genocide of California Indian Nations and the extraction of their
18 environmental resources funded by the federal government and state of California; and

19 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (SFHRC) published a
20 comprehensive report in 2007 called *Discrimination by Omission: Issues of Concerns for*
21 *Native Americans in San Francisco*, which served as the basis for the newly funded American
22 Indian Truth & Healing Reparations Advisory Committee under SFHRC to address American
23 Indian concerns to advise the City and the public regarding reparations for past and present
24 institutional racism on unceded stolen lands, examine strategies to heal Native invisibility,

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1 create a collective voice to remedy the absence of political representation, generate equitable
2 resource distribution; and

3 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco acknowledges that San Francisco
4 ranks tenth among cities with the highest number of murdered or missing indigenous women
5 cases and passed, a Resolution in May of 2019 recognizing May 5th as the National Day of
6 Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women; and

7 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisor also urges Congress and local governments to
8 support education, tribal self-governance and self-determination for Native peoples; and

9 WHEREAS, With the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009
10 Congress reaffirmed and recognized the important contributions of American Indians; and

11 WHEREAS, The people of the United States have reason to honor the great
12 achievements and contributions of American Indians and their ancestors; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, elected by the people
14 recognize the month of November 2021 as “National Native American Heritage Month” and
15 urges the people of San Francisco to observe this month with curiosity, cultural humility,
16 appreciation and participation with people and activities of the Native American tradition.

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