File No. <u>250759</u>

Committee Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Board Item No. \_\_\_\_\_6

## COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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## OTHER



Prepared by:	Lisa Lew	Date:	July 18, 2025
Prepared by:		Date:	

1	[Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Recognizing the Work of Disability Rights Leaders]
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3	Resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the
4	work of disability rights leaders and the San Francisco Office on Disability and
5	Accessibility, and the opening of the San Francisco Disability Cultural Center.
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7	WHEREAS, July 26, 2025, marks the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Americans
8	with Disabilities Act (ADA), a landmark civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against
9	individuals with disabilities and guarantees equal access to public life; and
10	WHEREAS, The ADA has transformed the social and physical landscape of the United
11	States (U.S.), promoting independence, equity, and inclusion for over 61 million Americans
12	with disabilities; and
13	WHEREAS, San Francisco has a proud and rich history of being a welcoming and
14	inclusive city for all, championing civil rights, disability rights, and social justice movements,
15	including the historic Section 504 Sit-In of 1977 at the San Francisco Federal Building by a
16	group of people with disabilities and their allies—the longest nonviolent occupation of a
17	federal building in U.S. history—which galvanized the national disability rights movement and
18	led to the implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; and
19	WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is celebrating the grand opening of
20	the San Francisco Disability Cultural Center on July 17, 2025, the nation's first municipally
21	funded disability center and a first-of-its-kind space dedicated to honoring the artistic, cultural,
22	and civic contributions of the disability community; and
23	WHEREAS, The San Francisco Office on Disability and Accessibility (ODA), formerly
24	the Mayor's Office on Disability, has been instrumental in leading citywide efforts to ensure
25	

access to infrastructure, services, digital spaces, and civic engagement for residents and
 visitors with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, ODA has joined the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS), a
move that will allow both organizations to combine their expertise and support greater
alignment in working towards an inclusive City that is accessible for people with disabilities;
and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco disability rights community continues to be inspired by
the visionary leadership and pioneering work of women and feminists with disabilities,
including groundbreaking advocates such as the late Judith ("Judy") Heumann, Debby
Kaplan, Alice Wong, Sascha Bittner, the late Patty Berne, and many others whose efforts
have expanded opportunity, equity, and justice across generations; and

WHEREAS, Judy Heumann, a tireless advocate who is often called the mother of the disability rights movement, was instrumental in founding key organizations such as Disabled In Action and the World Institute on Disability, led the historic 504 Sit-In to secure rights under the Rehabilitation Act, served as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services under President Clinton, and throughout her life championed global disability rights initiatives that helped pave the way for the ADA and the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Debby Kaplan, a pioneering disability rights attorney and activist, cofounded the Disabled Women's Coalition at University of California (UC) Berkeley, founded
the Disability Rights Center with Ralph Nader, served as an attorney for the Disability Rights
Education and Defense Fund (DREDF), and led the World Institute on Disability, and now
serves as Deputy Director of ODA, overseeing programmatic accessibility compliance,
effective communication, and digital access; and

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WHEREAS, Alice Wong, a prominent disability rights activist, writer, and community
organizer based in San Francisco, is the founder and director of the Disability Visibility
Project, an online community fostering and sharing disability media and culture; served on the
National Council on Disability from 2013 to 2015; made history in 2015 by attending a White
House event via telepresence robot; and continues to amplify disabled voices and advance
disability justice through her writing, public speaking, and activism, including publishing
"Disability Intimacy", "Disability Visibility", and "Year of the Tiger: An Activist's Life"; and

8 WHEREAS, Sascha Bittner, nationally recognized disability rights leader, whose 9 decades of advocacy have advanced accessible transportation, housing, and home- and 10 community-based care; through her work with Senior and Disability Action, Hand in Hand, and 11 the In-Home Support Services (IHSS) Consumer Alliance, and in her role as a Commissioner 12 on the San Francisco Disability and Aging Services Commission, has championed equity, 13 independence, and dignity for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Patty Berne, co-founder and Executive Director of Sins Invalid, was a visionary leader in the disability justice movement, whose work amplified the voices of disabled artists of color and queer and gender non-conforming people with disabilities, and who helped to define disability justice as a cultural and political framework centering intersectionality, access, and collective liberation; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes and
 20 celebrates the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors celebrates the opening of the San Francisco Disability Cultural Center as a landmark achievement in promoting disability arts, culture, and civic engagement; and, be it

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1	FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and commends the
2	work of the San Francisco Office on Disability and Accessibility for its continued leadership in
3	advancing equity, access, and inclusion across the City; and, be it
4	FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors expresses its deepest
5	appreciation to the many women and feminist leaders with disabilities, including the late Judy
6	Heumann, the late Patty Berne, Debby Kaplan, Alice Wong, Sascha Bittner, and countless
7	others who have fought tirelessly to ensure the full and equal participation of people with
8	disabilities in all aspects of life.
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## **Introduction Form**

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one): For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment) 1. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference) 2. (Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only) Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee 3. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor inquires ... " 4. 5. **City Attorney Request** Call File No. from Committee. 6. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion) 7. Substitute Legislation File No. 8. Reactivate File No. 9. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on 10. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes): □ Youth Commission □ Ethics Commission □ Small Business Commission □ Building Inspection Commission □ Human Resources Department □ Planning Commission General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53): No. □ Yes (Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.) Sponsor(s): Mandelman; Chen, Engardio, Melgar, Mahmood, Walton, Fielder, Dorsey, Sherrill, Chan, Sauter Subject: [Resolution Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Recognizing the Work of Disability Rights Leaders in San Francisco] Long Title or text listed: Resolution Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Work of Disability Rights Leaders and the San Francisco Office on Disability and Accessibility, and the

Opening of the San Francisco Disability Cultural Center.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: