

1 [Celebrating Nowruz, the Persian New Year]

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3 **Resolution recognizing and appreciating the cultural contributions of Persian culture to**
4 **modern society on the occasion of the celebration of Nowruz, the Persian New Year.**

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6 WHEREAS, Nowruz originated in ancient Persia more than 3,000 years ago and marks
7 the traditional Iranian New Year beginning on the vernal equinox and celebrates the arrival of
8 spring; and,

9 WHEREAS, Nowruz, meaning a “New Day,” symbolizes a time of renewal and a re-
10 commitment to community, heralds the arrival a new year as it ushers out the hardships
11 previous season and brings hope for the future; and,

12 WHEREAS, In 539 B.C., Cyrus the Great established one of the earliest charters on
13 human rights, which abolished slavery and allowed for freedom of religion, and this marker in
14 Iranian history has had significant impact on the respect for human rights that Iranian-
15 Americans carry today; and,

16 WHEREAS, Nowruz embodies the tradition that each individual’s thinking, speaking,
17 and conduct should always be virtuous, and the ideal of compassion for our fellow human
18 beings regardless of ethnicity or religion, and symbolizes a time of renewal and community

19 WHEREAS, This past year the Iranian-American community has upheld the finest of
20 American traditions through organizing of rallies in support of democratic rights in response to
21 Iran’s disputed presidential election and subsequent repression of peaceful demonstrations
22 and human rights; and,

23 WHEREAS; These rallies reached an apex on July 25, 2009 with demonstrations
24 coordinated world-wide including a peaceful rally in San Francisco which attracted
25 approximately 10,000 participants; and,

1 WHEREAS, The renewed sense of community that has come through organizing the
2 demonstrations has re-energized the Iranian-American community throughout California and
3 the United States in the finest tradition of Nowruz ; and,

4 WHEREAS, Nowruz serves to remind us of the many noteworthy and lasting
5 contributions of Persian culture to the social and economic fabric of today's modern society;
6 and,

7 WHEREAS, The Iranian-American community continues to enrich the tapestry of the
8 diversity in the San Francisco and the Bay Area generally, now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
10 hereby recognizes and appreciates the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz; and, be
11 it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
13 Francisco expresses its appreciation for the contributions of Persian culture to today's modern
14 society on the occasion of the celebration of Nowruz; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco by and through its
16 Board of Supervisors wishes Iranian-Americans, the people of Iran and all those who observe
17 this holiday a prosperous new year.