

1 [Petra DeJesus Day - April 21, 2021]

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3 **Resolution declaring April 21, 2021, as Petra DeJesus Day in the City and County of**
4 **San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Petra DeJesus was appointed by the members of the Board of
7 Supervisors in December 2005 to the San Francisco Police Commission, recommended by
8 her friend and colleague, the late Jeff Adachi; and

9 WHEREAS, Since being appointed, Commissioner DeJesus has served the City and
10 County consistently for 15 years as a volunteer member of the Commission; and

11 WHEREAS, After earning her law degree in 1982 from UC Hastings, Petra dedicated
12 herself to public interest law, representing low-income people at California Rural Legal
13 Assistance, Mission Community Legal Defense, and then the San Francisco Public
14 Defender's office; and she worked on serious felony and homicide cases and rose to become
15 an accomplished senior criminal defense trial attorney; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2000, she joined the firm of Kazan, McClain, Satterley & Greenwood in
17 Oakland, where she currently works today, representing workers, bystanders, and their
18 families who are ill or have died from exposure to asbestos against industries that refuse to
19 acknowledge their culpability or to compensate the workers for their workplace injuries; and

20 WHEREAS, From the very beginning of her service on the Police Commission,
21 Commissioner DeJesus brought her unapologetically outspoken progressive voice and,
22 through the deep work she has accomplished over the last 15 years, is now recognized as a
23 highly effective senior member of the Commission; and

24 WHEREAS, During her tenure on the Commission, she worked collaboratively with
25 community members and the Police Department on developing new policies on use of force,

1 body worn cameras, critical incident training (CIT), tasers, juvenile detention policies,
2 language access, domestic violence protocols, the terrorism joint task force, cultural
3 competency, sanctuary ordinance protocols, mental health/ de-escalation training, and much
4 more; and

5 WHEREAS, Commissioner DeJesus has pushed for urgency in implementing the US
6 Department of Justice 2016 reform recommendations and has consistently fought to draft,
7 implement and enforce policies to promote police accountability, civic engagement,
8 constitutional policing, police use of force, and individual rights; and

9 WHEREAS, Commissioner DeJesus has been the leading voice on the Commission on
10 the use of force policy, prioritizing the sanctity of life and setting clear guidance on officer-
11 involved shootings, including strict constraints on firing at moving vehicles, the carotid
12 chokehold, and most recently -- in the aftermath of the heinous murder of George Floyd -- the
13 use of knees on a person's back or body parts on a person's neck; and

14 WHEREAS, Commissioner DeJesus is known and appreciated by her colleagues and
15 the justice community for always insisting on data and quantifiable data, focusing on metrics
16 to ensure consistency and accountability would guide decisions about policies and discipline;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Commissioner DeJesus worked collaboratively with the US Department of
19 Justice to implement Department General Orders that include new data-gathering tools that
20 measure what policies or actions are biased, unconstitutional, or implicitly biased and allow
21 the Commission to shape policies on actual data; and

22 WHEREAS, During Commissioner DeJesus's tenure, she participated in the selection
23 of three Chiefs of Police, most recently, taking the bold step of reaching outside of the San
24 Francisco circle to bring in new leadership and focus on reform by recruiting our current Chief
25 William Scott from the Los Angeles Police Department; and

1 WHEREAS, Commissioner DeJesus has been unafraid to speak truth to power or to be
2 a minority voice on the Commission when she knows that she is right, and she deserves to be
3 recognized for her bravery and persistence in pushing for meaningful reform and for persisting
4 despite attacks and intimidation; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
6 recognizes Petra DeJesus for her profound contributions to police oversight and reform and
7 proclaims April 21, 2021, as Petra DeJesus Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

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