

1 [Honoring Yuan Yuan Tan]

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3 **Resolution declaring February 14, 2024, as “Yuan Yuan Tan Day” in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco; and recognizing and honoring the San Francisco Richard C.**
5 **Barker Principal Ballet Dancer on her retirement, for her dedication to the San**
6 **Francisco Ballet, and for her work promoting the City’s arts and culture across the**
7 **globe.**

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9 WHEREAS, Yuan Yuan Tan was born in Shanghai on February 14, 1976, in the year of
10 the Dragon; and

11 WHEREAS, Tan will take her final bow as a dancer with the San Francisco Ballet on
12 February 14, 2024, on her 48th birthday, performing the role of Marguerite in Frederic
13 Ashton's Marguerite and Armand; and

14 WHEREAS, At the age of 10, Tan joined the Shanghai Ballet Academy, where the
15 decision to join the ballet was made by the flip of a coin, after initial hesitation from her father;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, In 1992, San Francisco Ballet Artistic Director, Helgi Tomasson, saw Tan
18 dance at the 5th International Ballet Competition in Paris where she won the gold medal and
19 invited her to guest star for the San Francisco Ballet; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1995, Tan was named a soloist, performing the “Esmerelda” pas de
21 deux at the San Francisco Ballet gala; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1997, at the age of 20, Tan was promoted to Principal Dancer and was
23 the first Chinese and the youngest Principal Dancer at the time; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2012, Tan was appointed as the Richard C. Barker Principal Dancer;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, One of Tan’s proudest achievement was dancing with the SF Ballet in
2 Shanghai and Beijing for her 20th anniversary with the Company; and

3 WHEREAS, Tan has won many awards for her dance, including:

- 4 ○ Silver medal winner of junior female division, 2nd International Ballet
5 Competition, Helsinki, 1991.
- 6 ○ Named one of “20 people under the age of 40” considered heroes from Asia, in
7 a cover story by Asian edition of Time Magazine, 2004.
- 8 ○ Honorary chair, along with Jennifer Newsom, of Asian Art Museum’s Shanghai
9 Gala, 2010.
- 10 ○ Received the 2014 Critics’ Circle National Dance Award for Outstanding Female
11 Performance (Classical) for London performance of Yuri Possokhov’s RAKU,
12 2013.
- 13 ○ Named one of the world’s most influential Chinese for her contributions to the
14 arts by Phoenix TV, Hong Kong, 2015.
- 15 ○ Received SF Ballet’s inaugural Silver Artists Society award, recognizing her 27th
16 anniversary with the Company, February 2022; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2016, Tan established the Shanghai Theater Academy’s Tan Yuan
18 Yuan International Ballet Art Studio; and

19 WHEREAS, Tan is the longest-dancing San Francisco Ballet principal ever, having
20 danced with the Company for 29 seasons; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes and honors San
22 Francisco Richard C. Barker Principal Ballet Dancer, Yuan Yuan Tan, on her retirement for
23 her dedication to the San Francisco Ballet and for her work promoting the City’s arts and
24 culture across the globe; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors wishes Ms. Tan much joy and
2 happiness in her second act; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
4 Francisco hereby declares February 14, 2024, “Yuan Yuan Tan Day” in the City and County of
5 San Francisco.

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