File No. <u>250173</u>

Committee Item No. _____ Board Item No. _____

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Date:

Date: February 25, 2025

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Prepared by:	Lisa Lew	Date:	February 21, 2025
Prepared by:		Date:	

FILE NO. 250173

RESOLUTION NO.

1	[Reverend Roland Gordon Day - February 13, 2025]
2	
3	Resolution recognizing and commending Reverend Roland Gordon on the occasion of
4	his 81st birthday and for his many years serving the Ingleside Presbyterian Church and
5	San Francisco's community; and declaring February 13, 2025, as Reverend Roland
6	Gordon Day in the City and County of San Francisco.
7	
8	WHEREAS, On February 13, 1944, Reverend Roland Gordon was born in Greenwood,
9	Mississippi before moving with his family to Gary, Indiana, where he was a captain and star
10	player on his high school basketball team; and
11	WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon obtained a bachelor's degree in education in 1967
12	before moving to Los Angeles in 1972, where he engaged in a number of creative endeavors
13	including publishing a book of poetry, writing two musicals, and organizing a weekly arts
14	festival; and
15	WHEREAS, In 1978, Reverend Gordon enrolled in the San Francisco Theological
16	Seminary and began a career as a pastor at the struggling Ingleside Presbyterian Church,
17	whose membership had dwindled to just four parishioners; and
18	WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon completed his Master of Divinity degree in 1983 and
19	was ordained as Ingleside Presbyterian Church's full-time pastor; and
20	WHEREAS, Seeing the church's immense potential, Reverend Gordon organized the
21	Ingleside Church Basketball League inside the church's gymnasium, providing a positive
22	space for local youth to learn and play; and
23	WHEREAS, To inspire the predominantly Black young people drawn to the
24	gymnasium, Reverend Gordon began affixing photos of prominent African Americans on the
25	walls, creating the massive Black History collage that consists of thousands of images now

Supervisors Melgar; Chen BOARD OF SUPERVISORS known as the "Great Cloud of Witnesses," which was designated as an official historic
 landmark in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon positioned his church as a nexus for the OceanMerced-Ingleside community, facilitating local organizing, serving seniors and families through
food pantries, promoting cross-cultural collaborations between Black and Asian community
members; providing meeting space for community events, inviting renowned artists to address
the community, and rehabilitating the dilapidated Phelan Loop (now known as the City College
Station) into a beautiful green space; and

9 WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon continued his own artistic works, including producing
10 the play "Enter Frederick Douglas," playing the lead in "The Seven Exaltations of Simon," and
11 narrating the musical "The Modern Mass"; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon dedicated years of service to organizations throughout San Francisco and the wider Bay Area, serving as President of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Council of Churches, serving on the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Black United Fund, and founding both the Ingleside Community Center and the Thad Brown Boys Academy; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon has been widely recognized for his outstanding
dedication to his church and community, including receiving the 1995 Koshland Award for his
community service, the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award from the San Francisco Theological
Seminary, the 2004 Alumni Merit Award from his alma mater Baldwin-Wallace College, and
the 2023 national Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for Outstanding Public Service
Benefiting Local Communities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon has left an indelible mark on the Ingleside neighborhood
 and wider San Francisco community, demonstrating his immense creativity, his talent for
 revitalizing a struggling spiritual community, his undeniable passion for developing new

Supervisors Melgar; Chen **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

opportunities for youth, and his humble leadership as a champion for San Francisco's African
 American community; now, therefore, be it

3	RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes, celebrates, and
4	commends Reverend Roland Gordon on the occasion of his 81st birthday and extends their
5	deepest gratitude for his many years ministering the people of San Francisco; and, be it
6	FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors declares
7	February 13, 2025, as Reverend Roland Gordon Day in the City and County of San
8	Francisco.
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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): 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment) 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference) (*Routine*, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only) Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee 3. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor 4. inquires..." 5. City Attorney Request Call File No 6. from Committee. 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): □ Small Business Commission □ Youth Commission □ Ethics Commission □ Planning Commission □ Building Inspection Commission □ Human Resources Department 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): Supervisors Melgar and Chen Subject: Melgar - Resolution - Reverend Roland Gordon Day – February 13, 2025 Long Title or text listed:

Resolution recognizing and commending Reverend Roland Gordon on the occasion of his 81st birthday and for his many years serving the Ingleside Presbyterian Church and San Francisco's community; and declaring February 13, 2025 as Reverend Roland Gordon Day in the City and County of San Francisco.