

1 **Resolution setting aside the current death toll of 478 victims of the 1906 earthquake**
2 **and amending that number no later than April 18, 2006.**

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4 WHEREAS, On April 18, 1906, the great earthquake, one of the biggest disasters in
5 American history, shook San Francisco; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1907, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors established a death toll
7 for the earthquake and subsequent fire at 478, which has stood as the official toll for nearly a
8 century; and,

9 WHEREAS, The number of deaths has been disputed by historians since they have
10 discovered that few if any of the dead in Chinatown were counted and none of the victims
11 who were shot by authorities as suspected looters, a figure that will run in the hundreds, has
12 been counted; and,

13 WHEREAS, Gladys Hansen, the founder of the City Archives at the Public Library, has
14 begun to count the dead and she has tallied more than 3,400 fatalities; and,

15 WHEREAS, Establishing an accurate death toll will properly memorialize those who
16 perished and reflect the magnitude of the catastrophe; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors set aside the death toll of 478; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That interested members of the public use the resources of
19 the San Francisco History Center of the Public Library, as well as other local history
20 repositories, to establish a certified death count, with the names of all the victims; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the certified death count and list of names be presented
22 to the Board of Supervisors for a vote on amending the toll, when the work is completed, in
23 any event, no later than 30 days before the Centennial of the great earthquake on April 18,
24 2006.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 041149

Date Passed:

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January 25, 2005 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

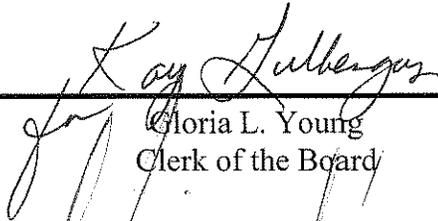
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 041149

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on January 25, 2005 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

FEB 04 2005

Date Approved


Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board


Mayor Gavin Newsom