

1 [Commendation for Byron Yoanidis]

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3 **Resolution commending Byron Yoanidis of San Francisco, for his inspirational effort**  
4 **and his deep commitment to help those who face homelessness and mental illness.**

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6 WHEREAS, Byron Yoanidis has been working as a flower vendor in San Francisco  
7 since 1963; and,

8 WHEREAS, In 1996 Mr. Yoanidis extended a helping hand to John Joseph, a man who  
9 was a stranger at the time and was visibly struggling to survive on the streets; and,

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Yoanidis' warm gesture and continued encouragement led to a job for  
11 Mr. Joseph at his flower stand on Market and Spear, which was a major step in enabling Mr.  
12 Joseph to become independent and lead a productive life; and,

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Yoanidis provided one-on-one assistance to Mr. Joseph, especially  
14 with his treatment plan; and,

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Yoanidis and Mr. Joseph have become like brothers and pillars of  
16 support for one another; and,

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Yoanidis has been known to be extraordinary in his kindness and has  
18 been described by those who know him as "an angel who walks on the face of this earth,";

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Yoanidis' story was featured in the KQED national documentary *Hope*  
20 *on the Street*; now therefore, be it,

21 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commend Byron Yoanidis  
22 for being a role model to the citizens of San Francisco. His actions are a testimony to the  
23 compassion that resides in each and everyone of us to give hope and the needed support to  
24 individuals with mental illness so they can recover and live productive lives.

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