

1 [Recognizing the Wild Parrots of San Francisco as the Official Animal of San Francisco]

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3 **Resolution recognizing the Wild Parrots of San Francisco as the official animal of the**
4 **City and County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, The Wild Parrots of San Francisco are a unique and beloved feature of our
7 city's natural environment, with a vibrant population of parrots that are known for their
8 stunning colors and boisterous personalities; and

9 WHEREAS, The Wild Parrots of San Francisco belong to the species *Psittacara*
10 *Erythrogenys*, and are commonly known as the Cherry-headed Conures within the pet trade
11 and Red-masked Parakeets by ornithologists, whose natural habitats are Ecuador and Peru;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco is known for embracing immigrant populations and was one
14 of the first cities to provide asylum to immigrants; and

15 WHEREAS, Much like those immigrants who settled and grew families in San
16 Francisco, flocks of Wild Parrots that were imported to San Francisco have since bred new
17 generations of San Francisco flocks, with documented sightings of Wild Parrots in the
18 northeast waterfront area as early as 1911 and again in 1930, and regular breeding patterns
19 documented starting in 1989, the same year as the Loma Prieta earthquake that reshaped
20 San Francisco; and

21 WHEREAS, The Wild Parrots of San Francisco have become a symbol of the city's
22 diversity, sociability, and resilience, having adapted to life in an urban environment and
23 flourishing despite numerous challenges; and

24 WHEREAS, Like many San Franciscans, the Wild Parrots of San Francisco call a wide
25 range of neighborhoods "home", with flocks spotted everywhere from the sunbelt of Bernal

1 Heights and Mission Dolores to the fog of Aquatic Park, and flight patterns witnessed over
2 almost every neighborhood in the city; and

3 WHEREAS, The Wild Parrots of San Francisco have been featured in numerous
4 books, documentaries, and films, most notably the 2003 documentary *The Wild Parrots of*
5 *Telegraph Hill* by Judy Irving and Mark Bittner, which ultimately showcased a surprise only-in-
6 San Francisco love story between the two humans brought together by their shared love of
7 the Wild Parrots; and

8 WHEREAS, The Wild Parrots of San Francisco have become a beloved icon of the
9 city, attracting admirers from around the world and inspiring conservationist measures,
10 including a 2007 city ban on feeding the Wild Parrots, on file with the Clerk of the Board of
11 Supervisors in File No. 070467, as public feeding was making the birds susceptible to
12 domestication, predators and capture; and

13 WHEREAS, The Wild Parrots of San Francisco are a reminder of the importance of
14 appreciating the natural world, and the need to support efforts to conserve wildlife and their
15 habitats, such as a 2007 Ordinance on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File
16 No. 070126, which preserved two Monterey Cypress trees providing critical habitat to the Wild
17 Parrots; and

18 WHEREAS, The Wild Parrots of San Francisco enjoy a diverse, colorful and aromatic
19 diet of fruits, buds and blossoms, including strawberry guava, pine seeds, loquats,
20 blackberries, juniper berries, flowering eucalyptus and magnolia and cherry blossoms,
21 echoing San Francisco's well-documented love of healthy fresh produce and colorful local
22 flowers and trees; and

23 WHEREAS, While there are wild parrots living in every major city in the world, the Wild
24 Parrots of San Francisco have their own language dialect, with a specific system of calls and
25

1 responses distinct from conure populations found elsewhere, making them truly unique to San
2 Francisco; and

3 WHEREAS, The Wild Parrots of San Francisco are raucous and noisy, wild and free,
4 and travel in tightknit flocks that exhibit acts of solidarity, much like their human San
5 Franciscan counterparts who are known for their vocal public input, fierce independence and
6 deep love of community; and

7 WHEREAS, The Wild Parrots of San Francisco are a treasured part of our city's
8 cultural heritage, recently securing the most votes from an informal 2023 San Francisco
9 Chronicle online poll to determine the most suitable candidate to be named the official animal
10 of San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
12 hereby recognizes the Wild Parrots of San Francisco as the official animal of San Francisco;
13 and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
15 Francisco urges all residents and visitors to the city to celebrate and protect these magnificent
16 birds, and to support continuing efforts to ensure the Wild Parrots of San Francisco thrive in
17 this urban environment that they call home.

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