

1 [Peter Keane Day - February 8, 2023]

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3 **Resolution celebrating the immense contributions of Peter Keane and declaring**  
4 **February 8, 2023, as Peter Keane Day in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Peter Keane was born on February 8, 1943, in Brooklyn, New York, where  
7 he received a Bachelor of Arts from City College of New York in 1964; and

8 WHEREAS, Peter earned a law degree from Southern Methodist University and began  
9 his law practice in Grand Prairie, Texas in 1968; and

10 WHEREAS, With his wife, Nancy Keane, Peter moved to San Francisco in 1969 and  
11 immediately began his legacy of groundbreaking legal work by challenging California’s one-  
12 year residency requirement for voter registration, and winning; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1970, Peter opened his own law practice in San Francisco where he  
14 spent eight years working on criminal and civil cases; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1978 and continuing through 1998, Peter served as Chief Deputy in the  
16 Office of the San Francisco Public Defender, running the day-to-day operations of the 70-  
17 attorney office and personally representing death penalty defendants; and

18 WHEREAS, Beginning in 1980, Peter served as an Adjunct Professor at Hastings  
19 College of Law in San Francisco; and

20 WHEREAS, Peter was the author of the Handgun Control Ordinance passed by Mayor  
21 Dianne Feinstein banning handguns in San Francisco, a law that broke new ground in the  
22 generational fight against gun violence, even as it was later ruled unconstitutional; and

23 WHEREAS, As President of the Bar Association of San Francisco, Peter led a major  
24 program to increase diversity and inclusion in the practice of law in San Francisco by  
25 increasing the hiring of women and lawyers of color to downtown law firms; and

1           WHEREAS, As a Member of the State Bar’s Board of Governors, Peter was a key  
2 author of 1994’s Proposition 190, a successful amendment to the California Constitution that  
3 increased transparency and provided critical reforms for California’s judicial discipline system;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Peter offered near daily legal analysis on KPIX during the nine month long  
6 trial of O.J. Simpson, segments that proved so popular that in 1995, Peter began his own  
7 weekly radio talk show, “Keane on the Law,” which became KPIX’s highest-rated show and  
8 aired for three years; and

9           WHEREAS, Peter was a beloved and popular Professor of Law at Golden Gate  
10 University School of Law, where his courses on Constitutional Law and the Rules of Evidence  
11 were so highly sought-out by students that some arranged their entire class schedules to  
12 ensure they could take Peter’s class, and where Peter served as the Dean of the Law School  
13 from 1998 to 2004; and

14           WHEREAS, In addition to providing regular legal analysis on CBS television and radio  
15 and in written opinion columns in San Francisco, Peter is known internationally as a legal  
16 analyst for broadcast media, appearing on CBS Evening News, CNN, the BBC, ABC World  
17 News, Larry King Live, Nightline, Burden of Proof, MSNBC InterNight, and other news  
18 programs throughout the world; and

19           WHEREAS, Peter accepted an appointment by City Attorney Dennis Herrera to the  
20 San Francisco Ethics Commission in 2013, where he brought a clear-minded view of public  
21 integrity and worked diligently to place the interests of the public above those of intransigent  
22 bureaucrats and entrenched special interests, and so distinguished himself that he was  
23 elected Chair of the Ethics Commission by his colleagues; and

24           WHEREAS, Peter was named a 2017 recipient of the James Madison Freedom of  
25 Information Award for his work on government openness and transparency; and

1           WHEREAS, Dissatisfied with the Ethics Commission’s failure to combat an epidemic of  
2 pay-to-play corruption and dark money, Peter resigned his position to take his cause directly  
3 to the people of San Francisco; and

4           WHEREAS, Peter sponsored the Sunlight on Dark Money initiative ordinance, joining  
5 forces with his former student, attorney Jon Golinger, and former Assembly Member Tom  
6 Ammiano, and Supervisors Gordon Mar, Matt Haney, Sandra Lee Fewer, Hillary Ronen, and  
7 Rafael Mandelman to champion the landmark ethics reform; and

8           WHEREAS, Appearing on the November 2019 ballot as Proposition F, Sunlight on  
9 Dark Money was overwhelmingly approved by nearly 77% of San Francisco voters and  
10 became the strongest “dark money” disclosure law in the nation; and

11           WHEREAS, Peter also advised on laws expanding San Francisco’s public financing  
12 system and has been a tireless champion for a more ethical, effective, and accessible  
13 government; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That in recognition of his lifetime of leadership and immeasurable  
15 contributions to ethics and law for the people of the City and County of San Francisco, the  
16 Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby declares February 8,  
17 2023, to be Peter Keane Day.

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