FILE NO. 240480 RESOLUTION NO.

[Stuttering Awareness Week - May 13 through 18, 2024]

Resolution proclaiming May 13 through 18, 2024, as the Annual National Stuttering Awareness Week in the City and County San Francisco.

WHEREAS, Across the country, the second week of May is recognized as Stuttering Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, Stuttering is a speech disorder characterized by repetition of sounds, syllables, or words, prolongation of sounds, and interruptions in speech; and

WHEREAS, Organizations dedicated to bringing hope and empowerment to children and adults who stutter through support, education, and advocacy, have locations in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Paul Castellano and Barbara Hubbard Koval, organized the drive to win Congressional recognition for people who stutter, and in 1988 President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation establishing the second week in May 1988 as National Stuttering Awareness; and

WHEREAS, Maya Chupkov of Proud Stutter organized the effort to win State recognition for people who stutter, and in 2023 Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas signed a proclamation establishing the second week in May 2023 as California's Stuttering Awareness Week to encourage all Californians to support the stuttering community; and

WHEREAS, Many stutterers suffer frustration and embarrassment that can lead to harmful emotional stress; and

WHEREAS, Stuttering is a form of speech diversity and should be recognized as simply a different way of speaking; and

WHEREAS, When stuttering continues into adulthood, a person may have difficulty communicating with other people and stuttering may affect a person's quality of life, interpersonal relationships, job opportunities, and professional growth; and

WHEREAS, During Stuttering Awareness Week, Proud Stutter seeks to raise awareness about communication disorders and the many ways that people with the daily challenges of stuttering can be supported; and

WHEREAS, By recognizing these challenges, we can draw attention to the needs, shine a light on these often invisible disabilities, and help avoid the negative consequences of misunderstanding stuttering; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That San Francisco hereby proclaims May 13 through May 17, 2024, as the Annual Stuttering Awareness Week in San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco will work to support the stuttering community at the local, regional, and state level and will encourage residents of San Francisco to participate in National Stuttering Awareness Week activities.