

1 [Commending Sheriff Michael Hennessey]

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3 **Resolution commending and honoring Sheriff Michael Hennessey for his distinguished**
4 **tenure as the longest serving Sheriff of the City and County of San Francisco and**
5 **congratulating him on his retirement.**

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7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hennessey's first position in the Sheriff's department was as legal
8 counsel to Sheriff Richard Hongisto; and,

9 WHEREAS, Michael Hennessey, in 1975, founded the San Francisco the non-profit
10 *Jail Project*, a legal assistance program for indigent prisoners with civil legal problems and
11 provided training for law students and new lawyers while offering technical assistance to the
12 Sheriff's Department, and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Hennessey managed the Jail Project until May 1979, when popular
14 sentiment in the Department as well as civic-minded San Franciscans encouraged him to
15 seek election as Sheriff; and,

16 WHEREAS, Michael Hennessey ran for Sheriff of the City and County of San Francisco
17 in November of 1979 and won the office handily in the December run-off, as Sheriff, he
18 secured general fund monies to fund what is now Prisoner Legal Service and is the only
19 Sheriff in California who is also an attorney-at-law; and,

20 WHEREAS, Sheriff Hennessey was reelected to the office of Sheriff in 1983, 1987,
21 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007 thus serving the people of the City and County of San
22 Francisco for thirty-two years; and

23 WHEREAS, Sheriff Hennessey has been recognized by his peers as a leader in
24 innovative and progressive programs such as development of prisoner education and

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1 rehabilitation programs, and his tenure has been also notable by construction of three major
2 jail facilities and by expansion of powers of the Office of Sheriff; and

3 WHEREAS, Examples of his innovative social, rehabilitation and recidivism-reduction
4 programs unique in law enforcement include:

- 5 • FIVE KEYS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL. The only certified charter high school in
6 a jail or prison in America;
- 7 • EVICTION ASSISTANCE. Tenants facing eviction are contacted and offered
8 counseling and referrals for civil evictees facing homelessness. It is the only
9 such program in California, and the only known program in the US. It has
10 helped thousands of evictees since its implementation in 1980;
- 11 • RESOLVE TO STOP THE VIOLENCE PROGRAM (RSVP). This
12 groundbreaking anti violence counseling program received the Harvard
13 University Kennedy School of Government Innovations in Government Award in
14 2002;
- 15 • IN-CUSTODY DRUG TREATMENT. San Francisco county jails have two unique
16 substance abuse counseling programs, one for women (SISTER) and one for
17 men (Roads to Recovery);
- 18 • THE GARDEN PROJECT/EARTH STEWARDS. An innovative job-training
19 program using organic gardening and landscaping skills as a path to
20 employment;
- 21 • COMMUNITY ANTI-VIOLENCE COUNSELING. Created in 2006, The No
22 Violence Alliance (NoVA) is collaboration among law enforcement and
23 community non-profit organizations to provide case management and services
24 to violent offenders released from jail or prison; and,

19 WHEREAS, Sheriff Hennessey is nationally recognized for his recruitment program for
20 women and minorities, including gay men and lesbians making his staff among the most
21 diverse in the nation reflecting the diversity of San Francisco's population; and,

22 WHEREAS, At the height of the AIDS crisis, he was named Law Enforcement News'
23 Man of the Year for leadership in fact-based policy and training regarding AIDS in jails and
24 prisons; and,

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1 WHEREAS, Sheriff Hennessey was a visionary as an early proponent and adopter of a
2 new technique for jail management called direct supervision which creates a dialogue with
3 prisoners in the jails proving to be safer and more economical than traditional linear jails; and,

4 WHEREAS, Sheriff Hennessey incorporated the principles of direct supervision into the
5 architectural design of two new San Francisco jails that were planned to maximize visual
6 supervision and to eliminate “blind spots” from staff observation resulting in safer jails, almost
7 completely eliminating escapes, sexual assaults and other inmate misconduct; now, therefore,
8 be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco,
10 on behalf of the officers, employees and residents of the City recognizes Sheriff Michael
11 Hennessey for serving the city with the utmost integrity, intellect and passion that will be
12 missed by many; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors congratulates Sheriff Michael
14 Hennessey on his exemplary thirty-two year tenure as the longest-serving Sheriff in California
15 and wishes him and his family a well-deserved, long and rewarding retirement with best
16 wishes for all of his future endeavors.

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