[Lyme Disease Awareness Month - May 2012]

**Resolution proclaiming May 2012 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in the City and County of San Francisco.**

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a serious bacterial infection that is commonly transmitted by infected ticks and is spreading everywhere in the world, including nationally, statewide and locally; and

WHEREAS, There is an average of 39,000 new cases of Lyme disease reported in the United States every year; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that the reported cases of Lyme disease are only 10 percent of the actual cases that meet surveillance criteria; and

WHEREAS, The tick that spreads Lyme disease has been found in 56 out of California's 57 Counties; and

WHEREAS, Many residents are unaware they have contracted Lyme disease due to the ambiguous nature of the symptoms of the disease; and

WHEREAS, If untreated or misdiagnosed, Lyme disease can cause long-term health problems, including neurological disorders, memory loss, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, psychological disorders and, in some rare cases, even death; and

WHEREAS, If treated immediately or appropriately, Lyme disease can usually be cured; and

WHEREAS, In the State of California, ticks are present throughout the year and we must take precautions to protect humans and animals from tick bites all year long; and

WHEREAS, Education and general public awareness of the symptoms, prevention and treatment of Lyme disease are an essential component of those precautions; and

WHEREAS, Immediately following the presentation of last year's public awareness resolution, at least one San Francisco resident recognized his own symptoms and received confirmation of and treatment for his Lyme disease as a result of witnessing public comment; and

WHEREAS, The month of May is recognized nationally and by the State of California as Lyme Disease Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco does hereby proclaim May 2012 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.