

1 [Recognizing National Donate Life Month - April]

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3 **Resolution recognizing every April as National Donate Life Month in San Francisco and**
4 **urging all San Franciscans to register as organ and tissue donors; committing to**
5 **continuing to provide education to City and County of San Francisco employees about**
6 **the need for and benefits of organ and tissue donation; supporting the mission of**
7 **Donor Network West in providing compassionate support and education about organ**
8 **donation; and commending the San Francisco Unified School District for becoming the**
9 **first school district in California to comply with California State Assembly Bill 1967,**
10 **authored by former Speaker of the California Assembly John A. Pérez, to provide**
11 **education to students and staff about the need for and benefits of organ and tissue**
12 **donation.**

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14 WHEREAS, There are currently 116,000 men, women and children on the national
15 transplant waiting list, and every 10 minutes another person is added to the waiting list; and

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 639 people in San Francisco are on the waiting list for a
17 life-saving organ transplant, but last year only 90 of these patients were transplanted; and

18 WHEREAS, 46 percent of those on the waiting list in San Francisco are Asian, 18
19 percent are Hispanic, 20 percent are Caucasian, and 13 percent are African American; and

20 WHEREAS, Every year, the waiting list for organs gets longer, but the number of
21 donors and transplants does not keep up with the growing need; and

22 WHEREAS, 82 percent of people waiting for an organ are waiting for a kidney; and

23 WHEREAS, 22 people die every day in the United States waiting for an organ
24 transplant; and

1 WHEREAS, Only three in 1,000 people die in a way that allows for organ donation; and

2 WHEREAS, Any person can become a potential organ and tissue donor regardless of
3 age, ethnicity or medical history; and

4 WHEREAS, A living donor can save a life by providing one kidney or a portion of their
5 liver; and

6 WHEREAS, A deceased organ donor can save up to eight lives by donating their heart,
7 pancreas, intestines, liver, two kidneys, and two lungs; and

8 WHEREAS, A deceased tissue donor can enhance up to 75 lives by donating their
9 eyes, cornea, skin, heart valves, veins, and bones and connective tissues; and

10 WHEREAS, People can indicate that they would like to become a donor during their
11 driver license application or renewal process, and anyone over the age of 13 can sign up
12 online anytime or learn more about organ and tissue donation online at
13 www.donateLIFCalifornia.org; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 22,000 people on the waiting list for an organ donation live
15 in California; and

16 WHEREAS, More than half of adults over the age of 18 in the United States are
17 registered as organ donors while only 43 percent of the total population of California are
18 registered as organ donors; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2012, the Governor of the State of California signed into law California
20 State Assembly Bill 1967 (AB 1967), authored by John A. Pérez, which amended the
21 California Education Code to include a provision that all health and science curriculum
22 frameworks adopted by the Instructional Quality Commission and the State Board of
23 Education include the subject of organ procurement and tissue donation; and

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1 WHEREAS, The intent of AB 1967 is to inform young people about the importance of
2 organ and tissue donation in order for them to make an educated decision about the
3 opportunity to save lives; and

4 WHEREAS, Donor Network West is a federally designated Organ Procurement
5 Organization serving 175 hospitals and five transplant hospitals in Northern and Central
6 California while providing service and support to doctors, nurses, coroners and medical
7 examiners, and families; and

8 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) has supported
9 Donor Network West and educated Primary Care Physicians at SFDPH in clinics in the
10 Chinatown and Castro neighborhoods as well as others in order to increase awareness about
11 organ and tissue donation and registration in areas of San Francisco where it is most needed;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Services System (HSS) has worked with Donor
14 Network West to provide education during open enrollment and flu season, where they
15 typically see over 500 employees and retirees each year; and

16 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) in partnership with
17 SFDPH and Donor Network West, as part of their obligation to implement AB1967, has
18 provided organ and tissue donation information and registration materials including
19 information about the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act which allows for organ transplants
20 between HIV positive individuals, in 18 or more school wellness centers throughout San
21 Francisco, as well as educating wellness staff and teachers about organ and tissue donation
22 via their professional development programs; and

23 WHEREAS, As a result of newly formed partnerships and relationships between Donor
24 Network West and the City and County of San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors began
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1 recognizing deceased individuals who gave the gift of life through organ and tissue donation;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Through these monthly recognition ceremonies, more than 30 individuals
4 and their families have received public recognition for their generosity in donating organs and
5 tissue to demonstrate the City and County of San Francisco's deep gratitude; and

6 WHEREAS, Former Mayor Edwin M. Lee, who passed away on December 11, 2017,
7 was a tissue donor and selflessly gave tissue, corneas, and bone which may have
8 transformed the lives of many individuals; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes every April as
10 National Donate Life Month in San Francisco and urges all San Franciscans to register to be
11 an organ donor; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco commits to
13 continuing to provide education to City and County staff and employees about the need for
14 and benefits of organ and tissue donation; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports the
16 mission and work of Donor Network West in providing compassionate support and education
17 about organ donation; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco commends the
19 SFUSD for becoming the first school district in California to comply with AB1967 and urges
20 the SFUSD to continue to provide this information to students on an ongoing basis; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco is unwavering in its
22 support for policies and programs that educate and inform residents about the need for and
23 benefits of organ and tissue donation.

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