

1 [Commending LaborFest on its 25th Anniversary]

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3 **Resolution commending LaborFest on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, and its**
4 **ongoing efforts to shed light on the ongoing plight of working people through arts and**
5 **other cultural events.**

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7 WHEREAS, San Francisco and the broader Bay Area have long been the site of
8 historic events in the Labor Movement, where policymakers and community members have
9 supported the Labor Movement as well as associated arts and cultural events, and have
10 variously committed through policies and practices to continue to support organized labor and
11 the plight of all working people; and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco LaborFest commemorates a foundational moment in the
13 history of union and labor rights - the 1934 West Coast Maritime Strike - and, more generally,
14 the broader Labor Movement and the plight of all working people; and

15 WHEREAS, The 1934 West Coast Maritime Strike grew out of miserable hiring
16 practices and poor working conditions which caused 127,000 workers representing 160
17 unions to walk off their jobs in protest in a landmark general strike that all but shut down San
18 Francisco for three days; and

19 WHEREAS, After two workers were shot and killed outside the union headquarters of
20 the International Longshoremen’s Association an event now commemorated as “Bloody
21 Thursday” the longshoremen won most of their demands through arbitration, and the tragic
22 loss of life spurred national legislation in 1935 that established collective bargaining and
23 established the National Labor Relations Board; and

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1 WHEREAS, LaborFest commemorates this critical history of the Labor Movement and
2 the resulting Work Progress Administration (WPA) monuments and labor-themed murals,
3 films, and history walks detailing the lives and the dignity of working people; and

4 WHEREAS, The history of the Labor Movement and the ongoing demands of working
5 people are as relevant as ever in the wake of the United States Supreme Court's recent
6 decision in *Janus vs. ADSCME, et al.*, Case No. 16-1466 (2018), which dealt a disastrous
7 blow to public sector unions; and

8 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court's decision in *Janus* undermines the fundamental
9 tenets of the Labor Movement, chiefly the idea that an injury to one is an injury to all, and the
10 consequent need for solidarity among working people to advance the dignity of all Americans;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, LaborFest is an internationally-recognized event, with festivals in Asia,
13 Istanbul, Ankara, Osaka, and South America, with endorsements and support from an array of
14 local Bay Area unions, organizations, and volunteers; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco LaborFest also stands for the rights of immigrants and the
16 reality that this country has always been a nation of immigrants, immigrant workers, and
17 immigrant families, who are nevertheless facing ruthless discrimination and attacks emanating
18 from the current executive branch of the United States federal government; and

19 WHEREAS, LaborFest aims to create a large tent for all to come together and
20 celebrate the intersectionality of the struggles and aspirations of all working people; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco recognizes this critical
23 inflection point in the history of the Labor Movement and hereby honors LaborFest on the
24 occasion of its 25th anniversary for continuing to shed light on the underlying history and
25 ongoing plight of working people here and abroad.