

1 [Supporting an Irish Famine Memorial]

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3 **Resolution supporting a permanent memorial in San Francisco for the victims and**
4 **survivors of the Irish Famine, also known as the Great Hunger.**

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6 WHEREAS, In Ireland in the 19th century, the overwhelming majority of Irish people
7 were prohibited from voting, from holding political office, from practicing their religion, from
8 entering many professions, and from doing many other things that are necessary to succeed
9 and prosper in life; and

10 WHEREAS, In the Great Hunger between 1845-52, over one million Irish people died
11 and millions more emigrated; and

12 WHEREAS, The Irish population which peaked at 8.1 million in 1841 had fallen to four
13 million by 1871, a decline of over 50%; and

14 WHEREAS, The Great Hunger was a tragedy compounded by a fundamentally unjust
15 economic system and a criminally negligent government response to the crisis; and

16 WHEREAS, Millions of the “Famine Irish” sought refuge and simple survival in the
17 United States; and

18 WHEREAS, The Irish Famine Memorial committee is supported by a broad coalition of
19 Irish organizations and friends of the Irish Community in San Francisco; and

20 WHEREAS, The Irish Famine Memorial Committee has partnered with the Recreation
21 and Parks Department to identify an appropriate location for the Memorial; and

22 WHEREAS, The Irish Famine Memorial Committee has partnered with the San
23 Francisco Arts Commission to devise a plan to recommend a suitable Memorial; and

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1 WHEREAS, A Famine Memorial will connect the Irish American community of San
2 Francisco and California with our immigrant origins and recognize the contributions that the
3 earliest Famine-era immigrants made to the United States, California, and San Francisco; and

4 WHEREAS, The Memorial will serve to thank the State of California and City and
5 County of San Francisco for the welcome and opportunities that were afforded the Irish upon
6 their arrival; and

7 WHEREAS, This San Francisco Memorial will serve to revive and sustain the memory
8 of that great tragedy and remind those of us living in great material comfort of our own
9 obligations to the poor of the world; and

10 WHEREAS, The Memorial will educate the public on the specific history and
11 contributing factors of the Great Hunger and will remind us all of the devastating effects of
12 famine which persist in many parts of the world to the present day; and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco is the Sister City of Cork, Ireland; and

14 WHEREAS, The Irish community has continued to make enormous contributions to the
15 political, economic, social, and cultural life of San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports a permanent Irish
17 Famine Memorial in San Francisco.