

1 [Honoring Matt Gonzalez]

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3 **Resolution honoring Matt Gonzalez.**

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5 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez was elected to the Board of Supervisors in December of  
6 2000, winning 65% of the vote in a December runoff becoming the first Green Party member  
7 elected to public office in San Francisco representing District 5 which includes the Western  
8 Addition, the Haight/Ashbury, Inner Sunset, Hayes Valley, Cole Valley, and Japantown  
9 neighborhoods; and

10 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez worked on many issues during his tenure including:  
11 leading the effort to raise the minimum wage in San Francisco to the highest in the United  
12 States; as the chief sponsor to implement instant runoff voting (IRV), passing the strictest  
13 controls on chain stores of any major American city and prohibiting the selling of naming rights  
14 to Candlestick Park; and on the unsuccessful efforts to give immigrants the right to vote in  
15 School Board Elections, and to create a municipal utility district/public power authority in San  
16 Francisco; and

17 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez also was the chief sponsor of many ordinances and  
18 resolutions including: creating a homeless shelter monitoring committee, prohibiting elephants  
19 from being kept at the SF Zoo, authorizing domestic partners/family members as additional  
20 occupants, reconstitution of the Bicycle Advisory Committee based on district representation,  
21 50 caliber firearms ban, requesting the Controller's Fire Department audit, conditional use  
22 ordinance for the Haight neighborhood/commercial district, formula retail ordinance in  
23 Hayes/Gough and Cole Valley neighborhood/commercial districts, resolution authorizing SB  
24 307 monies in Japantown, supplemental appropriations for the Homeless Prenatal Program,  
25 protocols for the Office of Citizen Complaints and Police Department, whistleblower

1 protections for city employees, municipal bank analysis, resolution urging Bechtel Corporation  
2 to withdraw claims against Cochabamba, Bolivia, bicycle lanes from Baker to Scott, biodiesel  
3 MUNI pilot program, community land trust task force, resolution urging an end to the hotel  
4 worker lockout, creating a Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, saving the Page Street  
5 garden, urging resignation of Julie Lee from Housing Authority, resolution supporting  
6 autonomy of KPFA, resolution supporting Liberation Radio and asking the Federal  
7 Government not to interfere with micro radio stations, resolution authorizing more motorcycle  
8 parking, hearings on animal testing at UCSF, on police practices in arresting war  
9 demonstrators, and resolutions honoring poet Carl Rakosi, New Paltz Mayor Jason West, long  
10 time Sun-Reporter columnist Tom Fleming, gallery owner Charles Campbell, and Spanish  
11 prosecutor Carlos Castresana, and Milton Wolff and other veterans of the Abraham Lincoln  
12 Brigade; and

13 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez was assisted in his work by many outstanding legislative  
14 aides including Enrique Pearce, Rob Eshelman, Larry Roberts, Marianne Love, Amy Laitinen,  
15 Dave Grenell, and Jim Dorenkott; and

16 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez was elected President of the Board of Supervisors on  
17 January 8, 2003 becoming the first Latino elected to the position in the City's history and the  
18 first third party member to win the post since Franck Havenner was elected president as a  
19 member of the Progressive Party in the 1930s; and

20 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez used the appointment power of the board presidency to  
21 appoint Randall Knox to the Board of Appeals, Christina Olague to the Planning Commission,  
22 Noelle Hanrahan, Philip Ting, and Criss Romero to the Building Inspections Commission; and

23 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez brought many reforms to the board including moving the  
24 meetings from Monday to Tuesday; alternating the introduction of new items during roll call,  
25 reducing the number of full board meetings to 3 a month, and as the chief sponsor of a voter

1 approved measure making the job of Supervisor a full time one and designating the the salary  
2 be set by the civil service commission; and

3 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez also served as the chair of the Local Agency Formation  
4 Commission (LAFCO) during which time the agency held public meetings on desalinization,  
5 solar energy, community aggregation, tidal and wave energy, and San Francisco's freshwater  
6 lakes; and funding a study on the electric financial feasibility of municipalized power; and

7 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez brought his own style to public office hosting over 40 art  
8 shows in his City Hall office including shows by Laura Allen, Yvonne Beatty, Paul Blake, John  
9 Bovio, Laila Carlsen, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Melina Finkelstein, Enrique Gildardo, Albert  
10 Herter, Jack Hirschman, Sam Kowarski, Josh Lazcano, Jose Ramon Lerma, Nick Leyton,  
11 George Long, Barry McGee, Felix Macnee, Rebecca Miller, Hadley Northrop, Sherry Olson,  
12 Rene Pinchuk, Michael Rauner, Rob Reger, Steven Richards, Lynn Rubenzer, Tom Schultz,  
13 Christine Shields, Paul Spencer, ruth weiss, and Will Yakulic; and

14 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez used his TV Show on Channel 26 to promote many of the  
15 artists who showed work in his office, and filmmakers such as Christian Bruno, Sam Green,  
16 Veronica Majano, David Martinez, David Murray, and Charlotte Tai, and to disseminate  
17 interviews with such public figures as Jello Biafra, Gary Birnbaum, Peter Camejo, Kevin  
18 Danaher, Arianna Huffington, Sarah Lipson, Ralph Nader, Greg Palast, Tim Redmond,  
19 Jonathan Richman, and members of the San Francisco Brewer's Guild; and

20 WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez engaged the public through various public addresses  
21 including the commencement address at the San Francisco Law School in 2002, the Raven  
22 Lecture at the Boalt Law School in 2004, and by teaching a class on art & politics at the San  
23 Francisco Art Institute in 2004; and

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1           WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez, during his tenure in public office, published over 25 opinion  
2 editorials, book reviews and interviews in various publications including the San Francisco  
3 Chronicle, San Francisco Examiner, San Francisco Bay Guardian, San Francisco Bayview  
4 Newspaper, San Francisco Recorder, Frontlines, Mesh Magazine, Bang!, and the San  
5 Francisco Call, including interviews with former Clash lead singer and guitarist Joe Strummer  
6 and former San Francisco Sheriff Richard Hongisto; and

7           WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez, while in office, was honored by the Mexican American  
8 Political Association (Nativo Lopez, state president) with their “Bert Corona” award and by In  
9 Defense of Animals (Elliot Katz, president) with their “Guardian Award”; and

10          WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez ran a progressive campaign for Mayor of San Francisco in  
11 2003 (winning 19% of the vote in the General Election) and narrowly losing to his then-  
12 colleague, Supervisor Gavin Newsom (133,000 to 119,000 votes, 53% to 47%); and

13          WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez has stated his intent to return to the practice of law which  
14 he engaged in for a decade before his entry into politics; and

15          WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez has been called “courageous” by Ralph Nader, a  
16 “communist” by SF Chronicle columnist Ken Garcia, and a “defender of the poor” by Dolores  
17 Huerta; and

18          WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez has demonstrated that he is a fearless advocate for his  
19 causes and a courteous foe to his opponents; a friend to immigrants, poets, elephants and the  
20 downtrodden; now, therefore, be it,

21          RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors heartily congratulates Matt  
22 Gonzalez for his exemplary public service and wishes him well in his private endeavors.