

1 [Reinstatement of Homeless Death Count by San Francisco Department of Public Health]

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3 **Resolution urging Department of Health to reinstate Homeless Death Count.**

4 WHEREAS, In 1987 the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) began  
5 keeping count of the individuals who died homeless in San Francisco each year; and,

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7 WHEREAS, The availability of the names of our sisters and brothers who died  
8 homeless that year enabled homeless people and advocacy groups to conduct memorial  
9 services, which honored the life and dignity of each person by name; and,

10 WHEREAS, Former Mayor Willie Brown discontinued this annual humane practice of  
11 the homeless death count by DPH in 2001; and,

12 WHEREAS, Reinstating the homeless death count can serve as a measure to assess  
13 the effectiveness of services aimed to prevent and minimize the number of deaths amongst  
14 the homeless population; and,

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16 WHEREAS, Studying the homeless mortality rate is a practice administered in other  
17 major cities that provides information to conduct a comprehensive analysis on the contributing  
18 factors and causes that lead to the deaths of homeless individuals; and,

19 WHEREAS, Homeless people and advocates compiled as thorough a list of homeless  
20 deaths as possible for each year from 2001 through 2004, but without the official cooperation  
21 of the DPH, such lists did not reflect the real number of homeless deaths; now, therefore, be it

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23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby urges the DPH to resume the death  
24 count of homeless people, using the investigative criteria developed cooperatively by the DPH  
25 staff and homeless advocates through the years.

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