

1 [Supporting the Induction of José Julio Sarria into the California Hall of Fame]

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3 **Resolution supporting the inducting of José Julio Sarria into the California Hall of**
4 **Fame.**

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6 WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria was born on December 12, 1922, in San Francisco,
7 California; and

8 WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria was a Latino veteran of World War II serving in the
9 European theater and was honorably discharged in 1947; and

10 WHEREAS, During the 1950s, José Julio Sarria was a vocal critic of the criminalization
11 of queer people and queer meeting places, and would promote a groundbreaking sense of
12 gay pride and positive gay identity in performances at gay establishments such as the Black
13 Cat Café in North Beach; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1961, José Julio Sarria became the first known openly gay candidate for
15 elected office anywhere in the world by running for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,
16 and although he did not win his election, with more than 5,000 votes he placed 9th in a field of
17 32 candidates, thus demonstrating for the first time the existence of a “gay voting bloc”; and

18 WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria’s fight paved the way for many lesbian, gay, bisexual,
19 transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) candidates who followed to seek and win elected office
20 across San Francisco, elsewhere in the United States and around the world; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1962 José Julio Sarria co-founded the Tavern Guild, the country’s first
22 gay business association; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1964, José Julio Sarria proclaimed himself the “Empress of San
24 Francisco, widow of Emperor Joshua Norton and Protector of Mexico,” paving the way for the
25 formation of the Imperial Court System of San Francisco in 1965; and

1 WHEREAS, Soon after its inception, the Imperial Court system spread across the West
2 Coast and then across international borders, making it one of the oldest and largest LGBTQ
3 organizations in the world with 68 courts across the United States, Canada and Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Imperial Court of San Francisco has raised up to
5 \$100,000 annually for a variety of charities, including the Gay-Straight Alliance, San Francisco
6 Suicide Prevention, and The Trevor Project; and

7 WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria continued working and speaking out for equality and
8 respect for LGBTQ people and their culture throughout his 90 years of life; and

9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors declared May 22, 2012, José
10 Julio Sarria Day in the City and County of San Francisco in honor of his tremendous
11 contributions to San Francisco’s political and cultural life; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2013, the International Imperial Court System began a national
13 campaign to induct José Julio Sarria into the California Hall of Fame; and

14 WHEREAS, The California Hall of Fame inductees include San Franciscans such as
15 former Mayor Ed Lee, Willie Mays, Julia Morgan, Harvey Milk, Levi Strauss, Ishi, Michael
16 Tilson Thomas, and others; and

17 WHEREAS, Given José Julio Sarria’s significance to the State of California and the
18 LGBTQ community, his induction to the California Hall of Fame is supported by: President pro
19 Tempore of the California State Senate Toni Atkins; founder and president of the Harvey Milk
20 Foundation, Stuart Milk; former Speaker of the California Assembly John Pérez; former San
21 Francisco Supervisor and current BART Board President Bevan Dufty; California State
22 Senator Scott Wiener; the City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees; and others; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby declares its support
25 for the induction of José Julio Sarria into the California Hall of Fame so that his memory may

1 be preserved and honored for all future generations of Californians, LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ;
2 and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon final adoption of this Resolution, the Clerk of the
4 Board of Supervisors is directed to transmit a copy to the Governor and First Lady of
5 California.

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