

1 [Annual Tamale Lady Day - June 23]

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3 **Resolution declaring every June 23 as “Tamale Lady Day” in the City and County**
4 **of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Virginia Ramos, born on June 23, 1953 in Mexico, immigrated to
7 San Francisco with her seven children to escape a life of poverty and abuse and to give
8 them a new life filled with opportunity; and

9 WHEREAS, Virginia Ramos sold her homemade tamales in the Mission District
10 of San Francisco, using a family recipe passed on through generations to support her
11 children and to send three of them to college; and

12 WHEREAS, Virginia Ramos’ tamales made her famous in San Francisco, and
13 she became known far and wide as “The Tamale Lady”; and

14 WHEREAS, The Tamale Lady became an institution in San Francisco, not just
15 because of the quality of her tamales, but due to her personality and caring nature; and

16 WHEREAS, The Tamale Lady delivered tamales to people in the bars of the
17 Mission for years, pushing her cart through the Mission from Zeitgeist and the Elbo
18 Room to the Phone Booth and the Uptown; and

19 WHEREAS, She touched the hearts of countless residents by taking time to
20 speak with them and hear their woes, often giving candid advice and always offering
21 long warm hugs; and

22 WHEREAS, The Tamale Lady helped raise awareness to put in place laws to
23 support street vendors and recognize them as crucial contributors to the economy of
24 San Francisco; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Tamale Lady inspired a documentarian to create a film about
2 her life, “Our Lady of Tamale,” including a soundtrack of songs written about her by San
3 Francisco musicians; and

4 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors for the City and County of San Francisco
5 awarded her a Certificate of Honor in 2006 because of her contributions to the San
6 Francisco community, presented to her by Superior Chris Daly in front of hundreds of
7 her fans at a birthday party held in her honor; and

8 WHEREAS, The *San Francisco Chronicle*, *SF Weekly*, and numerous other
9 media outlets featured stories about the Tamale Lady for years, and she is featured in a
10 grand mural on the wall of Clarion Alley; and

11 WHEREAS, In the six years before her death, the Tamale Lady was close to
12 opening a restaurant on 16th Street in San Francisco, and now her children are doing
13 their best to carry on her legacy by fighting to open this same storefront; and

14 WHEREAS, The Tamale Lady’s tamales were a conduit for her eternal message:
15 “I don’t know you but I love you, so don’t do the chemicals honey”; and

16 WHEREAS, Tamale vendors should be appreciated and honored for carrying on
17 their cultural traditions by sharing these tasty and labor-intensive delicacies; and

18 WHEREAS, The people of the City and County of San Francisco want to
19 acknowledge and honor the Tamale Lady for her life’s work; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors for the City and County of San Francisco
21 hereby declares June 23 of every year as “Tamale Lady Day,” in memory of Virginia Ramos,
22 as a day to celebrate hard-working street vendors and to celebrate the life and work of the
23 Tamale Lady and particularly to spread Virginia’s message of love and acceptance for all.

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