File No.	190986	Committee Item No.	
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COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Prepared by: Prepared by:	Jocelyn Wong	Date:	September 27, 2019
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[Italian American Heritage Month - October]

Resolution recognizing October of each year to be Italian American Heritage Month in honor of the countless Italian American individuals and organizations who have contributed to the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, San Francisco was built by entrepreneurs, innovators, and communities dedicated to promoting the City as a world leader and destination. The City owes a great deal of gratitude to the Italian immigrants and Italian American individuals, families, and communities who have made innumerable contributions to our City's society, culture, landscape, and history; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is named for St. Francis of Assisi - an Italian Catholic friar, deacon, and preacher, whose compassion for service to all living beings led him to act as a champion for those in extreme poverty and for the protection of the world's natural spaces and environment; and

WHEREAS, The first Italian immigrants arrived and settled in the San Francisco Bay area in the 1840 's, around the time of California's official statehood and the incorporation of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Italian immigrants who settled in San Francisco from the Gold Rush through the 1880 's built a strong economic foundation in the Bay Area and Northern California in trades such as fishing, agriculture, culinary arts, winemaking, and merchantry, and

WHEREAS, One such Italian merchant to settle in the area in 1847 was Domenico Ghirardelli, the owner and operator of a confectionery which introduced visitors and residents

to Italian sweets and chocolate. Ghirardelli Square remains today one of the top economic centers and tourist destinations in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Other skilled Italian merchants, laborers, and master craftsmen imported and utilized Italian marble in San Francisco homes and buildings, including the seat of City government, City Hall; and

WHEREAS, In the 1850 's, Italian Jesuit priests, Father Nobili and Father Accolti, founded St. Ignatius College, which we know today as the University of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the 1860 's, early Italian settlers filled roles in City public works and sanitation, contributing to the creation of Golden Gate Park, and

WHEREAS, After the devastation caused by the 1906 earthquake and fire, the City's Italian American community banded together in City neighborhoods such as North Beach and Telegraph Hill, to rebuild homes, businesses, and streets. The resilience and work ethic of the Italian American community led to a rapid recovery from the disaster in these areas, and

WHEREAS, Famed local photographer Giovanni Monaco captured hundreds of photos of the 1906 disaster, which remain some of the only records documenting the impact of the earthquake and fire on neighborhoods, communities, and families, and

WHEREAS, The Bank of Italy 's Amadeo P. Giannini set up a desk from two barrels and a wooden plank in Fisherman's Wharf in the aftermath of the 1906 disaster to help provide Italian Americans with financial resources to overcome hardship. Giannini believed that financial institutions should first serve the individual, and he brought the first network of branch banking into communities and neighborhoods - the first branch opening in the Mission District. Giannini's network and institution expanded into what we now know as Bank of America; and

WHEREAS, The City's reputation as a vibrant, world-renowned center of arts is built upon a foundation of contributions by Italian artists, singers, dancers, filmmakers, and

philanthropists. For example, Gaetano Merola led the establishment of the City's first resident opera company in 1923. Merola's leadership and collaboration with other community members led to the creation of the San Francisco Opera Association, which stands today as the oldest surviving opera company on the West Coast. He also connected with City leaders and residents to construct the War Memorial Opera House during the Great Depression as a monument to San Francisco's veterans of the First World War; and

WHEREAS, Italian American poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti founded beloved literary site City Lights Bookstore in 1953. City Lights continues today as a free and open space for poets, authors, and book lovers all across the world, and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has inspired the nation with great Italian American athletes, such as baseball's Joe Dimaggio, Dom Dimaggio, Tony Lazzeri, and Frank Crosetti; and

WHEREAS, Italian Americans have consistently led and served the City through philanthropic and charitable causes. In 1858, La Societa Italiana di Mutua Beneficenza was created to provide relief for struggling Italian immigrants. La Societa was the first mutual benefit society in San Francisco, and for decades, operated as the oldest, continuously-existing Italian organization in the United States, and

WHEREAS, Perhaps some of the biggest contributions Italian Americans have made in San Francisco are in public service, policy-making, and political leadership. Three Italian American mayors have led San Francisco through momentous times: Mayor Angelo Rossi, the first mayor of 100% Italian descent to manage a major U.S. city, presided over the building of the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges. Mayor Joseph Alioto steered the city through the cultural revolution of the late 1960 's and 1970's and through major capital projects such as BART, the Embarcadero Center, and the Transamerica Pyramid. Mayor George Moscone fought to keep the San Francisco Giants in the City, and left a legacy of promoting tolerance and acceptance of individuals from all walks of life.

WHEREAS, Italian-American Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco is the first woman to serve as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and

WHEREAS, Italians and Italian Americans continue to promote San Francisco's growth by working and leading in economic and trade sectors, including technology and innovation, and

WHEREAS, The Italian Heritage Parade recognizes the accomplishments and culture of all Italians and Italian Americans and remains the oldest in the nation, and celebrated its 150th Anniversary in October 2018, and

WHEREAS, Those who live or work in, or visit San Francisco are fortunate to experience traces of the earliest contributions and creations of San Francisco Italian American culture through businesses, restaurants, shops, community events, and daily life throughout North Beach, and

WHEREAS, Organizations such as the Coalition of Italian American Organizations (CIAO) Bay Area, a coalition of over 25 Italian American organizations, the Italian American Museum (Museo Italo Americano), the Italian Community Services of San Francisco, and the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco (Instituto Italiano di Cultura) seek to promote, preserve and celebrate the Italian culture throughout the year, but especially during the month of October, which is the month of the Italian American Parade, Italian American Heritage Day, and other significant events celebrating Italian Culture in San Francisco, and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is Sister Cities with Assisi, Italy, the birthplace of the namesake of the City of San Francisco and just celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Sister City relationship, and

WHEREAS, Other cities throughout the United States of America recognize Italian

American Heritage Month, such as Los Angeles and Boston, to acknowledge the significant
contributions Italian Americans have made to their growth and prosperity, and

WHEREAS, Presidents Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, and George H.W. Bush proclaimed October as Italian American Heritage Month, and

WHEREAS, As stated in the Administrative Code, Section 16.4-1 declaring that on the second Monday in October each year, we recognize Italian American Heritage Day, and honor all Italians and Italian Americans for their commitment to San Francisco's growth and vibrancy and will continue to honor their passion for hard work, love and dedication to family and loved ones, and the cherished opportunity to live life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco recognizes October as Italian-American Heritage Month in honor of the countless Italian American individuals and organizations who have contributed to the vibrancy and prosperity of our San Francisco community.

Print Form

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO

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1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment). 7. 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.	
3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.	
	inquiries"
4. Request for letter beginning: "Supervisor	inquiries
5. City Attorney Request.	
6. Call File No. from Committee.	
7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).	
8. Substitute Legislation File No.	
9. Reactivate File No.	
10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on	
Planning Commission Building Inspection Commissio	nmission on
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Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Sponsor(s): Stefani, Peskin Subject: Recognizing October as Italian American Heritage Month The text is listed:	on
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