

1 [Honoring Michael Krasny - February 15, 2021]

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3 **Resolution honoring Michael Krasny on the occasion of his retirement from nearly**  
4 **three decades of award-winning journalism as the host of KQED's *Forum*; and**  
5 **proclaiming February 15, 2021, as "Michael Krasny Day" in the City and County of San**  
6 **Francisco.**

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8 WHEREAS, Legendary Bay Area broadcaster and educator, Michael Krasny, is retiring  
9 as host of KQED's *Forum* on February 15, 2021, the exact 28th anniversary of his tenure at  
10 the Bay Area public media station, after nearly three decades of award-winning journalism,  
11 with his last show airing on February 12, 2021; and

12 WHEREAS, Krasny's storied broadcasting career began in the late 1970's hosting at  
13 several other radio stations in the Bay Area; and

14 WHEREAS, Krasny joined KGO in 1983, where he hosted a night-time talk program for  
15 KGO-Radio and co-anchored the weekly KGO television show *Nightfocus*, later hosting Bay  
16 TV's *Take Issue*, a nightly news analysis show; and

17 WHEREAS, Krasny joined KQED in 1993 as host of *Forum*, the award-winning daily  
18 call-in radio program that flooded Bay Area living rooms and morning commutes with Krasny's  
19 calm and contemplative voice moderating discussions on local and national news, politics,  
20 arts and culture, health, public affairs, and technology;

21 WHEREAS, KQED *Forum* consistently ranks at the top of the Bay Area's drive-time  
22 radio shows, even in a time of declining radio audience numbers, with Krasny averaging  
23 240,000 listeners weekly, and an additional 70,000 online and podcast listeners; and

24 WHEREAS, Over his auspicious broadcasting career, Krasny has interviewed some of  
25 the most prominent newsmakers and thought leaders of the past half century, including Isabel

1 Allende, Maya Angelou, President Jimmy Carter, Cesar Chavez, Francis Ford Coppola, Jerry  
2 Garcia, Allen Ginsberg, John McCain, Toni Morrison, President Barack Obama, Camille  
3 Paglia, Rosa Parks, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Salman Rushdie, Senator Bernie  
4 Sanders, Patti Smith, Wayne Thiebaud, Charlize Theron, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Gene  
5 Wilder, Carl Sagan, and so many more; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to his broadcasting career, Krasny has forged a long and  
7 successful academic career, as a Professor of English at San Francisco State University,  
8 where the University's College of Liberal & Creative Arts established The Michael Krasny  
9 Awards in English Literature in 2018, as well as also teaching at the University of San  
10 Francisco, the University of California, San Francisco, and at the Fulbright International  
11 Institutes; and releasing a twenty-four book, DVD and audio series on "Short Story  
12 Masterpieces" for The Teaching Company; and

13 WHEREAS, Krasny is the published author of a number of best-selling books, including  
14 "Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life", "Sound of Ideas" and "Let There Be  
15 Laughter", a history and compilation of Jewish humor and jokes, as well as "Spiritual Envy";  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Krasny is the recipient of numerous awards for his broadcasting, writing  
18 and scholarship, including the S.Y. Agnon Medal for Intellectual Achievement, the Eugene  
19 Block Award for Human Rights Journalism, the James Madison Freedom of Information  
20 Award, the Excellence in Journalism Award from the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists  
21 Association, the Career Achievement Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, an  
22 award from the Radio and Television News Directors Association, and most recently, the  
23 Silver SPUR Lifetime Achievement Award, the most prominent award for lifetime civic  
24 achievement in San Francisco, as well as a 2020 Simpsonista Prize for enabling writers,  
25 readers and the craft of writing across generations; and

1           WHEREAS, Michael Krasny is widely regarded as an authentic talk show pioneer,  
2 helping to shape the style, content, and lasting impact of local talk shows through his probing  
3 interviews, emotional intelligence and patient attention to detail and his guests; and

4           WHEREAS, Michael Krasny, never with a signature sign-off or gimmick, has been the  
5 voice of reasonable debate and civic-minded dialogue for generations of Bay Area citizens  
6 eager to engage with thoughtful discourse, equipped with facts and access to a diversity of  
7 perspectives, and his retirement from KQED *Forum* leaves an immeasurable void in public  
8 journalism and the quest to narrate the human condition; now, therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That Michael Krasny has selflessly given the gift of public journalism and  
10 literary work fueled with integrity, compassion, and curiosity to generations of; and, be it

11           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
12 Francisco honors Michael Krasny on the occasion of his retirement from nearly three decades  
13 of award-winning journalism as the host of KQED's *Forum* on his 28th anniversary at the  
14 public media station; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
16 Francisco does proclaim February 15, 2021, as "Michael Krasny Day" in the City and County  
17 of San Francisco.

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