File No. 210089	10089
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Committee Item	No.	
Board Item No.	37	

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Prepared by: Prepared by:	Lisa Lew	Date:	January 29, 2021

1	[Honoring Michael Krasny - February 15, 2021]
2	
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.
7	
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 Alle	ende, Maya	Angelou,	President	Jimmy	Carter,	Cesar	Chavez,	Francis	Ford	Coppola,	Jerr	y
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2 Garcia, Allen Ginsberg, John McCain, Toni Morrison, President Barack Obama, Camille

3 Paglia, Rosa Parks, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Salman Rushdie, Senator Bernie

Sanders, Patti Smith, Wayne Thiebaud, Charlize Theron, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Gene

Wilder, Carl Sagan, and so many more; and

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

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

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

For Clerk's Use Only

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp or meeting date I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one): 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment). 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee. 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee. 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 Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following: Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission Ethics Commission Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form. Sponsor(s): Supervisor Peskin; Chan Subject: [Honoring Michael Krasny] The text is listed: Resolution honoring Michael Krasny on the occasion of his retirement from nearly three decades of award-winning journalism as the host of KQED's Forum and proclaiming February 15, 2021 as "Michael Krasny Day" in the City and County of San Francisco. Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: