

1 [Susan Solomon Day - June 16, 2021]

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3 **Resolution commending Susan Solomon on the occasion of her retirement from the**
4 **United Educators of San Francisco, and declaring June 16, 2021, as Susan Solomon**
5 **Day in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, Susan Solomon is a San Francisco native, lifelong educator, passionate
8 activist, dedicated neighbor, and tireless leader who cares deeply for her community; and

9 WHEREAS, Susan was born in San Francisco on December 7, 1954, to Herschel and
10 Josephine "Jo" Solomon, the second in what would be a family of four daughters; and

11 WHEREAS, Susan credits her parents for instilling a value of political engagement and
12 activism in her at a young age, in particular the experience of her father losing his job as a
13 public school teacher due to his refusal to sign the loyalty oath during the McCarthy era; and

14 WHEREAS, The Solomon family moved often, including a short stint in the recently-
15 developed Saint Francis Square in the Western Addition, where Susan would later settle with
16 her own family; and

17 WHEREAS, Due to the frequent moves, she attended numerous public schools in San
18 Francisco and Daly City, ultimately graduating from Lowell High School with the class of 1972;
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20 WHEREAS, Susan went on to attend UC Berkeley, and was among the first students to
21 graduate with a degree in genetics, a new major at the time; while she had initially planned to
22 go into medicine, the classes that brought her the most joy during her undergraduate days
23 revolved around art and education, two themes that would prove central to her career; and

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1 WHEREAS, Susan began her career working in a daycare before earning her M.A. in
2 Early Childhood Education from the Bank Street College of Education, and worked in
3 daycares and preschools in Manhattan; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1984, Susan settled in St. Francis Square with her husband Fred,
5 where she still lives today as a committed, caring community member, and over 35 years as a
6 St. Francis Square cooperator, serving on the Board of Directors and Building & Grounds
7 Committee at various times; and

8 WHEREAS, Both Susan and Fred took classroom teaching positions with low-income
9 preschoolers at the Head Start program, and immediately began organizing parents and
10 fellow teachers to improve conditions by forming a union; and

11 WHEREAS, Susan and Fred raised their children to have a dedication to social justice
12 and a deep love of learning; before they could walk, Herschel and Naomi were carried and
13 pushed in strollers on picket lines and marches, and learned chants and protest songs
14 alongside nursery rhymes and bedtime stories; and

15 WHEREAS, Susan's involvement with United Educators of San Francisco (UESF)
16 began in 2001 while teaching kindergarten at John Swett, and from 2001-2003 she was an
17 Executive Board member, representing Elementary Division teachers; in 2003, she was
18 elected UESF Secretary, a role she held until she was elected Executive Vice President in
19 2012; and

20 WHEREAS, During her time as Executive Vice President, Susan worked tirelessly to
21 unionize Creative Arts Charter School, marking a major victory for charter school educators
22 seeking fair wages, representation, and benefits; and

23 WHEREAS, Susan's career highlights are extensive, including serving on the California
24 Federation of Teachers' Racial Justice Task Force, which resulted in a report entitled,
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1 "Reclaiming the Promise of Racial Equity for Black Males in California;" this report was
2 adopted by unanimous vote at the subsequent CFT Convention; and

3 WHEREAS, Just before Susan took office as President of UESF in 2018, Fred was
4 diagnosed with late-stage terminal cancer, and he passed away later that year; they were
5 married for 41 years and the loss was, and remains, immeasurable; and

6 WHEREAS, According to family and friends, Susan has attributed much of her growth
7 and development as a labor leader to Fred's guidance, partnership, and support; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the past year, Susan's powerful leadership has guided UESF
9 through this pandemic, as she has worked unceasingly to prioritize the health and safety of
10 San Francisco's educators, students, school workers, and families; and

11 WHEREAS, It is without question that Susan's dedication to educating the next
12 generation with passion, care, art, and a deep sense of justice will continue to extend far
13 beyond her time with her beautiful grandchild; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
15 commends Susan Solomon on her incredible legacy and celebrates her retirement; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
17 Francisco declares June 16, 2021, as Susan Solomon Day in the City and County of San
18 Francisco.

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