Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Seniors Task Force

Resolution in support of an ordinance introduced and sponsored by Supervisor Scott Weiner and cosponsored by Supervisors Christina Olague, David Campos, and Malia Cohen to create a Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Seniors Task Force

WHEREAS, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender ("LGBT") seniors are often invisible, underserved and lack financial and family support networks; and

WHEREAS, LGBT workplace discrimination has historically created income inequalities across the lifespan of LGBT wage-earners and federal “safety net” programs like Social Security and Medicaid define “family” in ways that exclude LGBT families, partners, and spouses; and

WHEREAS, Research on the demographics of LGBT aging adults and seniors is minimal and therefore little is actually known about the conditions or needs of this segment of the San Francisco population; and

WHEREAS, The research that is available shows alarming areas of disparity in housing, government and social support, medical and mental health, and other factors compared to heterosexual counterparts; in particular, studies have shown an almost universal fear of being out in senior facilities due to perceived intolerance and ignorance on the part of staff and other seniors; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and the Aging and Adult Services Commission issued a report “Aging in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community” which included 67 recommendations relating to LGBT seniors calling for systemic policies to implement city-wide change in the specific areas of housing, health, and social services, legal status and equity, research and demographics, and community within community; and
WHEREAS, While some of the recommendations have been implemented, many of
them have not; and

WHEREAS, For the past 2 years the LGBT Advisory Committee of the Human Rights
Commission has worked to create structures to expand the voice of LGBT seniors in the
government process, increase awareness and advocate for programs and services that meet
specific and unique needs of the LGBT senior communities, and educate the LGBT
community and the general community about LGBT senior issues; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the LGBT Advisory Committee resulted in Supervisors Scott
Weiner, David Campos, and Christina Ologue calling for a hearing on the needs of LGBT
seniors before the Government and Audit and Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, Subsequent to the hearing, Supervisor Scott Weiner introduced legislation
to create the LGBT Seniors Task Force to advise the Board of Supervisors on addressing the
needs of LGBT seniors; the legislation was cosponsored by Supervisors Christina Ologue,
David Campos, and Malia Cohen; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Human Rights Commission commends
Supervisors Scott Weiner, Christina Ologue, David Campos, and Malia Cohen for their
commitment and leadership on this issue; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Human Rights Commission supports
the legislation to establish the LGBT Seniors Task Force and recommends to the Mayor he do
the same.