

1 [Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom]

2 **Resolution commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs**
3 **and Freedom and renewing the Human Rights Commission’s commitment to civil**
4 **rights and economic justice for all.**

5 WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and
6 Freedom (“March on Washington”) held on August 28, 1963 in Washington DC; and

7 WHEREAS the March on Washington was one of the most influential events in American
8 History; and

9 WHEREAS Organized in response to high levels of African American unemployment,
10 work that offered most African Americans only minimal wages and poor job mobility,
11 systematic disenfranchisement of many African Americans and the persistence of racial
12 segregation in the American South, the March on Washington called for collective action to
13 demand civil rights protections and economic justice; and

14 WHEREAS Speakers at the March on Washington demanded effective Civil Rights
15 legislation that included fair access to housing, integrated education, voting rights protections,
16 and work with dignity to defeat unemployment; and

17 WHEREAS the 250,000 marchers, representing civil rights groups, labor organizations
18 and religious entities from all over the country, and traveling on planes, buses, trains and on
19 their feet, were asked to carry the message of equal commitment and equal effort for jobs and
20 freedom back home to their friends and neighbors; and

21 WHEREAS, As a result of the March on Washington, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and
22 the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were passed and demonstrated the impact of the importance of
23 government and community collaboration; and

1 WHEREAS In 1964 in San Francisco, leading up to the March on Washington, the
2 Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance creating the San Francisco Human Rights
3 Commission, which Mayor John Shelley signed into law on July 24, 1964; and

4 WHEREAS Since 1964, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission has worked to
5 end discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations and worked with the
6 Mayor and Board of Supervisors to address civil rights and other related social justice issues
7 affecting the residents of San Francisco; and now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, the Human Rights Commission renews its commitment to sustainable
9 and effective action to ensure civil rights and economic justice for all; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the March on
11 Washington, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission hereby recognizes the
12 immeasurable value that the March on Washington had on American history and particularly
13 the history of African Americans, and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Human Rights Commission joins the Mayor, San
15 Franciscans, national leaders, community groups, and people all over the country to express
16 gratitude the marchers and organizers of the March on Washington; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Human Rights Commission pledges to honor the legacy
18 of the March on Washington through continuing the Commission’s work to end education and
19 criminal justice practices that significantly and disproportionately reduce employment
20 opportunities for African Americans, and continuing the Commission’s work to support and
21 empower grassroots community leaders in their efforts to improve the quality of life of all San
22 Franciscans.