

[Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Passage of the Civil Rights Act]

Proclamation Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act in Washington D.C.

1           **WHEREAS**, in 1963, the modern day civil rights movement manifested in San Francisco through  
2 demonstrations against hotels, supermarkets, drive-in restaurants, automobile showrooms and  
3 automobile repair shops which were discriminating against African Americans; and

4           **WHEREAS**, San Francisco is proud to celebrate and commemorate the passage of the Civil Rights  
5 Act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, on July 2, 1964 in Washington D.C. This landmark legislation  
6 outlawed discrimination based on race and color and provided equal opportunity in education,  
7 employment, housing, and public accommodations to all persons and continues to serve as an impetus  
8 towards eradicating all forms of discrimination; and

9           **WHEREAS**, 2014 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the San Francisco Human Rights  
10 Commission and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Act; and the purpose of both actions was to  
11 guarantee African Americans protection against discrimination; and

12           **WHEREAS**, for the past 50 years, the Human Rights Commission has championed San Francisco's  
13 fight to address the causes of and problems resulting from prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and  
14 discrimination; and

15           **WHEREAS**, the Black population in the City has been steadily declining since 1970; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the 1993 Unfinished Agenda Report called for an assessment of problems negatively  
17 affecting the Black community, and made recommendations; and

18           **WHEREAS**, the 2001 Violence in Our City Report called for an assessment of problems negatively  
19 affecting the Black community, and made recommendations; and

20           **WHEREAS**, the 2003 Environmental Report called for an assessment of problems negatively  
21 affecting the Black community, and made recommendations; and

22           **WHEREAS**, the 2006 San Francisco Demographic Report called for an assessment of problems  
23 negatively affecting the Black community, and made recommendations; and

24           **WHEREAS**, the 2009 Mayor's Task Force on African American Out Migration called for an  
25 assessment of problems negatively affecting the Black community, and made recommendations; and

26           **WHEREAS**, while each City-sponsored report called for the implementation of recommendations  
27 to resolve problems and equally protect African Americans, the Black population continued to decline an  
28 average of ten percent each census; and

29           **WHEREAS**, in 2012 the City of San Francisco and the HRC launched the African American  
30 Community Empowerment Initiative to serve as a conduit between the African American Community

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1 and City government and to create measures by which to address “Black Flight,” improve the quality of  
2 life for African Americans in San Francisco and ensure that the needs of this community are being heard;

3 **WHEREAS**, under the African American Community Empowerment Initiative, the HRC has  
4 advocated for reduced barriers for persons with arrest and conviction in housing and employment, co-  
5 sponsored legal clinics to address racially disparate education practices, hosted a dialogue on the human  
6 rights impact of the War on Drugs, facilitated an annual youth summer mentor series, and launched a  
7 multi-year campaign to commemorate significant civil rights anniversaries; and

8 **WHEREAS**, today, with its annual “Hero Awards,” the HRC is proud to recognize local heroes  
9 past and present who advanced social and civil rights and have redefined our City and our national  
10 priorities to ensure that America keeps the promise of equality and freedom, and who continue to build  
11 and strengthen our communities and uphold the commitment of keeping the Dream of equality and  
12 equity alive; and

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Human Rights Commission renews its commitment  
14 to sustainable and effective collective action that ensures civil rights for all; and

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act,  
16 the San Francisco Human Rights Commission hereby recognizes the immeasurable value that the Civil  
17 Rights Act has had on identifying disparate impact of government policies and particularly on racial  
18 equality and justice; and

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission pledges to honor the  
20 legacy of the Civil Rights Act through identifying and ending practices that contribute to the out  
21 migration of African Americans; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission calls on the City to  
23 create a five year plan to stabilize the Black population by implementing the recommendations of all five  
24 reports stated above in a way that addresses the needs of San Francisco’s African American community.

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