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

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

WHEREAS, 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act; and the purpose of both actions was to guarantee African Americans protection against discrimination; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 2012 the City of San Francisco and the HRC launched the African American Community Empowerment Initiative to serve as a conduit between the African American Community
and City government and to create measures by which to address “Black Flight,” improve the quality of life for African Americans in San Francisco and ensure that the needs of this community are being heard,

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

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

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

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

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

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