

Resolution Commending Friendship House Association of American Indians – Bridging Traditional and Western Best Practices

Date: March xx, 2026

WHEREAS, the Friendship House in San Francisco is a community-based organization dedicated to providing culturally relevant residential substance use disorder treatment and recovery services to primarily American Indian individuals; with mental health conditions, fostering the highest possible level of independence and self-determination for those we serve;

WHEREAS, since its founding in 1963, the Friendship House has demonstrated a strong track record in providing culturally relevant preventive treatment, and recovery support services to American Indians, focusing on supporting individuals who experience a problem with drugs and/or alcohol;

WHEREAS, Friendship House is guided by the same American Indian protocols, values, and ethics, that were once taught to be shunned; therefore, in addition to clinically-oriented prevention and treatment services, the Friendship House program provides and sponsors ceremonial events that reinforce and restore cultural identity, dignity, and a deep sense of belonging and purpose;

WHEREAS, these gatherings promote traditional American Indian values; that are inclusive of love, tolerance, reciprocity humility, and respect for all life;

WHEREAS, the traditional values integrated into the Friendship House's counseling and group services include talking circle, traditional family values, cultural education, and cultural events;

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Friendship House youth center provides American Indian youth with a broad range of activities and services that help foster cultural pride, academic achievement, and resilience in the presence of domestic violence and substance misuse;

WHEREAS, Friendship House is committed to offering a continuum of services that are strength-based and trauma-informed, thereby enhancing the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of American Indians throughout the lifespan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Friendship House in San Francisco has reaffirmed its commitment to using the healing model as a framework for resilience, wellness, and recovery that is specifically tailored to the unique needs of the American Indian/ Alaska Native population.

FURTHER RESOLVED The holistic prevention intervention and treatment approach has demonstrated its efficacy in reducing alcohol and substance use disorders, mental health disorders, and simultaneously increasing cultural connections and productivity within the community (including family reunification and job retention). Through their endeavors, the Friendship House has shown a commitment to empowering new leaders and healers, thereby contributing to the long-term preservation of tribal and intertribal traditions.

Approved and adopted on this date, _____