

1 COMMENDING RICHARD WHIPPLE

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3 **Resolution commending Richard Whipple, former deputy director of the Office of Civic**  
4 **Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, for his significant and remarkable contributions to**  
5 **San Francisco’s immigrant communities.**

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7 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission (“Commission”) has long  
8 recognized individuals whose leadership and service have strengthened the City’s diverse  
9 and vibrant immigrant communities and advanced San Francisco’s values as a welcoming,  
10 inclusive, and world-class city; and

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12 WHEREAS, Richard Whipple dedicated 16 years of public service to the City and  
13 County of San Francisco, exemplifying the City’s highest ideals of equity, dignity, and civic  
14 belonging for all residents, regardless of immigration status; and

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16 WHEREAS, Richard Whipple began his service to the City as a one-year City Hall  
17 Fellow tasked with helping to build the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs  
18 (“OCEIA”), and through his vision, commitment, and leadership was later promoted to Deputy  
19 Director; and

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21 WHEREAS, one of Mr. Whipple’s earliest contributions was his leadership on the 2010  
22 Census, during which San Francisco took a principled and bold stand to ensure that all  
23 residents were counted, affirming that inclusion is a moral choice and that immigrant  
24 communities matter; and

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1           WHEREAS, throughout his public service, Mr. Whipple helped design and sustain  
2 programs grounded in real community needs, including funding and protections for day  
3 laborers and domestic workers, strengthened language access initiatives, and the expansion  
4 of immigration legal services, immigration filing fee assistance, and community-led civic  
5 engagement grants; and

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7           WHEREAS, in response to violence, neglect, and disinvestment in underserved  
8 neighborhoods in the City such as Bayview and Visitacion Valley, Mr. Whipple played a  
9 central role, along with community organizations and City leaders, in establishing the  
10 Community Ambassadors Program (“CAP”), which for 15 years employed multilingual San  
11 Francisco residents in stable City jobs to promote safety, dignity, and trust where community  
12 needed it the most; and

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14           WHEREAS, through CAP, more than 500 individuals have served as Community  
15 Ambassadors, saving lives, keeping communities safe, and strengthening neighborhood  
16 cohesion, and the CAP model also inspired similar models nationwide and left a lasting legacy  
17 of a community-centered public safety model; and

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19           WHEREAS, Mr. Whipple partnered with philanthropy, City departments and community  
20 organizations to establish the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative, creating a  
21 national model for free naturalization workshops and helping more than 14,000 San  
22 Franciscans become United States citizens; and

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24           WHEREAS, under his leadership, San Francisco became a national leader in inclusive  
25 professional pathways through initiatives such as the DreamSF Fellowship and immigrant-

1 owned workers' cooperative development, programs designed and led by directly impacted  
2 immigrant community members; and

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4 WHEREAS, most recently, Mr. Whipple helped lead critical City responses to the  
5 federal administration's attacks on immigrant communities, including Know Your Rights  
6 trainings, cross-sector coordination, and immigration legal capacity-building through group  
7 processing immigration clinics; and

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9 WHEREAS, Mr. Whipple led San Francisco's certification process with Welcoming  
10 America, a national nonprofit nonpartisan organization, along with the team at OCEIA, to  
11 provide evidence of the City's work to support immigrant communities, making San Francisco  
12 the first city in the country to be certified as a five-star welcoming city; and

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14 WHEREAS, beyond programs and policies, Richard Whipple's public service was  
15 defined by the deep connections and partnerships he forged—supporting immigrant parents  
16 navigating City systems, building belonging in neighborhoods from Chinatown to the Mission,  
17 and working alongside the most dedicated public servants at the Office of Civic Engagement  
18 and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) and the City as whole; now, therefore, be it

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20 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission hereby commends  
21 and honors Richard Whipple for his extraordinary leadership, integrity, and unwavering  
22 commitment to immigrant rights; and, be it

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1           FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission expresses its profound gratitude for Mr.  
2 Whipple’s 16 years of service and recognizes the lasting impact of his work on the lives of  
3 tens of thousands of San Franciscans; and, be it

4           FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission extends  
5 its deepest appreciation and best wishes to Richard Whipple, affirming that his legacy will  
6 continue to shape a more just, inclusive, and compassionate San Francisco.

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