

1 [Commending Kathleen Connell and Michael Valerio]

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3 Resolution commending Kathleen Connell and Michael Valerio, founders
4 of the Folsom Street Fair.

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6 WHEREAS, Kathleen Connell founded the Folsom Street Fair in 1984
7 with Michael Valerio, who is now deceased, after a series of
8 redevelopment battles in the South of Market Area in the 1970s and
9 1980s; and,

10 WHEREAS, the efforts of the two founders represent a long San
11 Francisco tradition of valuing the distinctiveness of neighborhoods
12 and seeking to preserve their value and character; and,

13 WHEREAS, the two founders modeled the Folsom Street Fair on
14 Harvey Milk's use of the Castro Street Fair to mobilize, energize,
15 organize, and unify a community, and then broadened the scope to
16 include a coalition of all South of Market Area communities including
17 gays, lesbians, leather activists, elderly residents, Filipinos,
18 African-Americans, artists, and small business owners; and,

19 WHEREAS, the first Folsom Street Fair, "MEGAHOOD", set the tone
20 for the ones that followed by being run with disciplined resources,
21 attended beyond expectation by over 30,000 people, and able to return
22 a sizable profit of over \$20,000 to charity; and,

23 WHEREAS, The Folsom Street Fair has come to symbolize the
24 community with a sense of humor and resilience in the face of AIDS by
25 uniting fun with community empowerment, mixing celebration with

Mark Leno, Gavin Newsom

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1 education, building stronger communities while raising funds, and
2 becoming a completely unique San Francisco institution that embodies
3 the joyous individuality, diversity, and determination of people
4 living and experimenting in alternative lifestyles; and,

5 WHEREAS, The Folsom Street Fair, now in its 18th year, has
6 become the largest leather event in the world, the 3rd-largest
7 single-day event in the state, and the 4th largest single-day event
8 in the country with over 300,000 people attending and over \$250,000
9 given to charities last year; and,

10 WHEREAS, The Folsom Street Fair, over its 18-year history, has
11 returned close to a billion dollars in charitable giving, hotel and
12 sales tax revenues to the City, and increased revenues to local
13 businesses; and,

14 WHEREAS, Michael Valerio, throughout the remainder of his life,
15 continued to make important contributions to the Folsom community,
16 the City and County of San Francisco, and the community at large;
17 and,

18 WHEREAS, Kathleen Connell served as curator of "The Power of
19 Broken Hearts. MEGAHOOD: The Origin and Evolution of the Folsom
20 Street Fair. Celebration and South-of-Market Community Empowerment in
21 the Age of AIDS" which is the first major exhibition on the history
22 of this key, international event and the first conscious attempt to
23 document its history; now, therefore, be it

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Mark Leno

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RESOLVED, That this Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, does hereby commend Kathleen Connell and Michael Valerio for their dedication and service to our city; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this Board of Supervisors calls upon the residents of San Francisco to remember the many achievements and contributions of Michael Valerio to the many communities that he touched.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 012013

Date Passed:

Resolution commending Kathleen Connell and Michael Valerio, founders of the Folsom Street Fair.

November 13, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick,
Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

File No. 012013

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution
was ADOPTED on November 13, 2001 by the
Board of Supervisors of the City and County
of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

NOV 21 2001

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.