Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to recognize November 4th, 2007 Central American Peoples Day, and to acknowledge Central American Resource Center's (CARECEN) contributions in organizing first annual Central American Community "Festival de los Volcanoes" which celebrates the historical presence and contributions of Central Americans to San Francisco.

WHEREAS, the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) is an immigrant family wellness and empowerment agency committed to providing needed services to affect long-term change; and,

WHEREAS, for the last twenty-one years, CARECEN has fulfilled its mission to enhance the quality of life for Latino and immigrant residents through wellness, family empowerment, and legal and advocacy programs that emphasize family support; and,

WHEREAS, CARECEN will be honoring the Central American's presence in San Francisco by organizing the first annual "Festival of Volcanoes; Celebrating Central America" and,

WHEREAS, CARECEN's first annual "Festival of Volcanoes" is a cultural celebration that aims to educate, inspire, unify, and create trans-generational bonds within the Central American community in the Bay Area; and,

WHEREAS, Central Americans have a long standing tradition of migrating to the United States that dates back more than a century due to economic and political instability in their countries of origin.
WHEREAS, Significant numbers of early immigrants arrived in the United States during the 1930's-1940's and resettled in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston and New Orleans while escaping their failing economies, political persecution and the lack of personal freedoms.

WHEREAS, Central American immigrants, as active members of social migration networks, helped to establish the social and economic foundations in the Latin American immigrant communities in San Francisco.

WHEREAS, these early Central American immigrants that settled in San Francisco provide much benefit the future generations of Central Americans that would later arrive in the United States.

WHEREAS, It is important to note that Central Americans relied mostly on family networks rather than ethnic, neighborhood, village, or national migration networks during the early migrations to the United States. Furthermore, many of these immigrants were members of the urban middle classes and had relatively high levels of education. Many were intellectuals, teachers, labor organizers, political dissidents, or exiled military officers that were not in agreement with their Central American governments.

WHEREAS, The influx of Central American immigrants to this country increased at an extremely rapid pace in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Presently, Central America ranks as the second Latin American region contributing legal and undocumented migrations to the United States.

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area has historically been a haven for Central American immigrants as the local communities have provided the social and cultural support systems that have helped their successful adaptation and incorporation into their local communities.

Supervisor Ammiano
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, CARECEN’s “Festival of Volcanoes” will celebrate the customs, cultures and other contributions of Centroamericanos in San Francisco’s Bay Area and provide an opportunity for showcasing the region’s people, environment, and history; and,

WHEREAS, CARECEN’s “Festival of Volcanoes” will be a family and community event aimed at the diverse communities of indigenous, afro-Centroamerican, and other marginalized groups but inclusive of cultural traditions and voices of unity among all San Francisco residents; and,

WHEREAS, CARECEN’s “Festival of Volcanoes” will encourage and promote collaboration with a broad segment of organizations, businesses, and groups serving or working with the Central American community; and,

WHEREAS, the “Festival of Volcanoes” will highlight issues affecting the Central American community in San Francisco including immigration, education, healthcare, and affordable housing. The Festival is also designed to promote social justice in fair trade practices, companies, and products which provide living wages to Centroamericanos; and,

WHEREAS, the “Festival of Volcanoes” is an expression of a broad collaboration of leaders and community organizations, housed and sponsored under CARECEN, and steered by a committee of individuals representing all Central American countries; and,

WHEREAS, the “Festival of Volcanoes” will be paying tribute to Carlos Aceituno, an artistic pioneer in Afro-Brazilian dance and music culture best known as the guiding light behind San Francisco’s Fogo Na Roupa—one of the best Brazilian Contingents for the San Francisco Carnival parade;

WHEREAS, The Central American Community comes together to recognize the artistic life and legacy of Mestre Carlos Gilberto Aceituno, in honor of his work as a Central American immigrant. Mestre Carlos Aceituno was the Founder/Director of SF Carnaval Award winning
WHEREAS, Mestre Carlos was originally from Quetzaltenango, Guatemala and 
imigrated to the Bay Area in the mid 1980s. For 20 years, Mestre Carlos Aceituno has 
shown commitment to his community by teaching dance, music and folklore of the Afro-
Brazilian Diaspora to the entire community, particularly inner city youth.

WHEREAS, The “Festival of Volcanoes” will also be paying tribute to Ricardo Calderon 
one of the founders of CARECEN who has served the Latino Immigrant community in San Francisco for more than twenty-one years as immigration paralegal.

WHEREAS, Mr. Calderon was a political prisoner and a torture survivor in El Salvador 
in 1980, who came to San Francisco in 1981 and was rescued with leadership of the US Solidarity with El Salvador Movement and the faculty committee for human rights in El Salvador of UC Berkeley and Stanford University.

WHEREAS, Mr. Calderon was general Secretary for the University of El Salvador, third in authority after the rector and vise rector. And the University of El Salvador is the most important public university in the country teaching more than 5,000 students a year at that time;

WHEREAS, through Mr. Calderon’s leadership at CARECEN hundreds of Salvadorans and Guatemalans have attained political refugee status; thousands of Mexican and other Latin American immigrants have received immigration services and become US citizens; and hundreds continue to renew their work permits yearly.

WHEREAS, The Central American community celebrates Mestre’s unique ability to bring people together in the study of cultural traditions and folklore and also celebrates the important contributions Ricardo Calderon has made to securing the lives of political refugees,
reuniting immigrant families and securing work permits to thousands of immigrants. The
community applauds their exemplary leadership; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City and County of San Francisco recognize and honor the
contributions of Central Americans to the city and that the Board of Supervisors endorse the
Festival de Los Volcanoes; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors highlight the presence of the
national, cultural and ethnic diversity of our San Francisco residents of Central American
origin and continue to be committed to the development of this important segment of our city’s
population; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors honor the contributions of
Carlos Aceituno, a Guatemalan American that contributed to our city’s art and culture by
leading Fogo Na Roupa and Omulu Guanabara, a nationally renowned Capoeira arts group
an inspirational multicultural and multigenerational dance troop.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors honors the contributions of
Ricardo Calderon, a Salvadoran political refugee who has contributed to the physical
wellbeing of Central Americans fleeing political and military violence and who has assured the
stability of thousands of San Francisco immigrants by securing their legal immigration status.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors recognizes November 4th as
Central American People’s Day.
Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to recognize November 4th, 2007 Central American Peoples Day, and to acknowledge Central American Resource Center's (CARECEN) contributions in organizing first annual Central American Community “Festival de los Volcanes” which celebrates the historical presence and contributions of Central Americans to San Francisco.

October 23, 2007  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Chu, Maxwell, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval
Excused: 1 - McGoldrick
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on October 23, 2007 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

10/29/2007
Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom