

1 [Recognizing the 90th Anniversary of the San Francisco Office of the Public Defender]

2 **Resolution recognizing that the San Francisco Office of the Public Defender, founded**
3 **in 1921, is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.**
4

5 WHEREAS, In 1921 the California Legislature passed the Public Defender Act after
6 Clara Foltz, California's first female lawyer, spent years advocating for the creation of Public
7 Defenders' offices to provide legal assistance to poor people in criminal law cases; and,
8

9 WHEREAS, In 1921, in response to the Public Defender Act, the San Francisco Board
10 of Supervisors passed an ordinance creating the Office of the Public Defender, and,
11

12 WHEREAS, In the 90 years since 1921, San Francisco has had seven individuals who
13 have served in the Office of the Public Defender; and,
14

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors appointed Frank J. Eagan as the
16 first Public Defender, his term commencing on October 15, 1921, and,
17

18 WHEREAS, Frank J. Egan was elected as Public Defender in August of 1922 and
19 served in the position for ten years; and,
20

21 WHEREAS, Following Frank J. Eagan's removal from office, Gerald J. Kenney was
22 appointed Public Defender in 1932 and subsequently elected; and,
23

24 WHEREAS, In 1935 the Civil Grand Jury found that "The office of Public Defender,
25 under the direction of Mr. Gerald J. Kenney, has been handled in a most efficient manner;"
and,
26

27 WHEREAS, Gerald Kenney served as Public Defender for two decades, dying in office
28 in 1954; and,
29

1 WHEREAS, Edward Mancuso was appointed in 1954 by Mayor Elmer Robinson to
2 complete Gerald Kenney's term and the Public Defender began to represent indigent people
3 accused of misdemeanors as well as those accused of felonies; and,

4 WHEREAS, Upon the retirement of Edward Mancuso in 1974, Robert Nicco, who had
5 been Chief Attorney under Mancuso was appointed Public Defender and then elected in
6 November 1974; and,

7 WHEREAS, Under Robert Nicco's tenure, the office's diversity was broadened,
8 including the hiring of Estella Weatley Dooley, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office's
9 first African-American female employee, and Fred Smith, an African-American man who was
10 Chief Deputy Attorney from 1974-1979; and,

11 WHEREAS, The 1976/77 Grand Jury Report stated that "This Grand Jury feels that Mr.
12 Robert Nicco and his staff have provided a very high quality of defense to those in need,
13 despite working under the adverse conditions of insufficient personnel, equipment, lack of
14 office space, and a very limited budget;" and,

15 WHEREAS, When Robert Nicco chose not to run for Public Defender, Jeff Brown was
16 elected Public Defender in 1978; and,

17 WHEREAS, Under Jeff Brown's tenure as Public Defender, the Office moved into its
18 current location at 555 7th Street in 1987; and,

19 WHEREAS, Jeff Brown resigned from the Public Defender's Office in 2001 and Kimiko
20 Burton was appointed as Public Defender; and,

21 WHEREAS, In 2002 Jeff Adachi was elected as Public Defender; and,

22 WHEREAS, Following his swearing in as Public Defender in 2003, Jeff Adachi named
23 Teresa Caffese as Chief Attorney, the first woman to serve in that role; and,

24 WHEREAS, Jeff Adachi oversaw the creation of the Office's Paralegal Unit and Clean
25 Slate Program; and,

1 WHEREAS, In 2005 the Clean Slate Program of the San Francisco Public Defender's
2 Office received the Mayor's Fiscal Advisory Committee's Managerial Excellence Team Award
3 and in 2006 Clean Slate received the California Public Defender's Association Program of the
4 Year Award; and,

5 WHEREAS, In 2006 Jeff Adachi received the American Bar Association's Dorsey
6 Award, honoring an outstanding public defender or legal aid lawyer; and,

7 WHEREAS, In 2007 Jeff Adachi received the California Lawyer of the Year Award;
8 and,

9 WHEREAS, in its 90 years of existence, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office
10 has enabled countless people to exercise their constitutional right to counsel; and,

11 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office will be celebrating its 90th
12 Anniversary with an event on December 9, 2011, now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors congratulates the Office of the Public
14 Defender on 90 years of service to the City and County of San Francisco.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

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

File Number: 111324

Date Passed: December 13, 2011


Resolution recognizing that the San Francisco Office of the Public Defender, founded in 1921, is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

December 13, 2011 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Cohen, Elsbernd, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Mirkarimi and Wiener

File No. 111324

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/13/2011 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

UNSIGNED


12/23/11

Mayor Edwin Lee

Date Approved

Date: December 23, 2011

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

File No.
111324