[Peter Keane Day - February 8, 2023]

Resolution celebrating the immense contributions of Peter Keane and declaring February 8, 2023, as Peter Keane Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, Peter Keane was born on February 8, 1943, in Brooklyn, New York, where he received a Bachelor of Arts from City College of New York in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Peter earned a law degree from Southern Methodist University and began his law practice in Grand Prairie, Texas in 1968; and

WHEREAS, With his wife, Nancy Keane, Peter moved to San Francisco in 1969 and immediately began his legacy of groundbreaking legal work by challenging California’s one-year residency requirement for voter registration, and winning; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Peter opened his own law practice in San Francisco where he spent eight years working on criminal and civil cases; and

WHEREAS, In 1978 and continuing through 1998, Peter served as Chief Deputy in the Office of the San Francisco Public Defender, running the day-to-day operations of the 70-attorney office and personally representing death penalty defendants; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 1980, Peter served as an Adjunct Professor at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Peter was the author of the Handgun Control Ordinance passed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein banning handguns in San Francisco, a law that broke new ground in the generational fight against gun violence, even as it was later ruled unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, As President of the Bar Association of San Francisco, Peter led a major program to increase diversity and inclusion in the practice of law in San Francisco by increasing the hiring of women and lawyers of color to downtown law firms; and
WHEREAS, As a Member of the State Bar's Board of Governors, Peter was a key author of 1994's Proposition 190, a successful amendment to the California Constitution that increased transparency and provided critical reforms for California's judicial discipline system; and

WHEREAS, Peter offered near daily legal analysis on KPIX during the nine month long trial of O.J. Simpson, segments that proved so popular that in 1995, Peter began his own weekly radio talk show, "Keane on the Law," which became KPIX's highest-rated show and aired for three years; and

WHEREAS, Peter was a beloved and popular Professor of Law at Golden Gate University School of Law, where his courses on Constitutional Law and the Rules of Evidence were so highly sought-out by students that some arranged their entire class schedules to ensure they could take Peter's class, and where Peter served as the Dean of the Law School from 1998 to 2004; and

WHEREAS, In addition to providing regular legal analysis on CBS television and radio and in written opinion columns in San Francisco, Peter is known internationally as a legal analyst for broadcast media, appearing on CBS Evening News, CNN, the BBC, ABC World News, Larry King Live, Nightline, Burden of Proof, MSNBC InterNight, and other news programs throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Peter accepted an appointment by City Attorney Dennis Herrera to the San Francisco Ethics Commission in 2013, where he brought a clear-minded view of public integrity and worked diligently to place the interests of the public above those of intransigent bureaucrats and entrenched special interests, and so distinguished himself that he was elected Chair of the Ethics Commission by his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Peter was named a 2017 recipient of the James Madison Freedom of Information Award for his work on government openness and transparency; and
WHEREAS, Dissatisfied with the Ethics Commission’s failure to combat an epidemic of pay-to-play corruption and dark money, Peter resigned his position to take his cause directly to the people of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Peter sponsored the Sunlight on Dark Money initiative ordinance, joining forces with his former student, attorney Jon Golinger, and former Assembly Member Tom Ammiano, and Supervisors Gordon Mar, Matt Haney, Sandra Lee Fewer, Hillary Ronen, and Rafael Mandelman to champion the landmark ethics reform; and

WHEREAS, Appearing on the November 2019 ballot as Proposition F, Sunlight on Dark Money was overwhelmingly approved by nearly 77% of San Francisco voters and became the strongest “dark money” disclosure law in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Peter also advised on laws expanding San Francisco’s public financing system and has been a tireless champion for a more ethical, effective, and accessible government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That in recognition of his lifetime of leadership and immeasurable contributions to ethics and law for the people of the City and County of San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby declares February 8, 2023, to be Peter Keane Day.
Resolution celebrating the immense contributions of Peter Keane and declaring February 8, 2023, as Peter Keane Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

April 05, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/5/2022 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

4/15/2022

Date Approved

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, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

5/5/2022

Date