

1 [Lawrence Ferlinghetti Day - March 24, 2019]

2
3 **Resolution declaring March 24, 2019, as Lawrence Ferlinghetti Day in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco.**

5
6 WHEREAS, Lawrence Ferlinghetti is a poet, playwright, painter, internationally-
7 acclaimed publisher and activist, who is best known for his prominent voice in the “wide-open”
8 poetry movement and as a foundational figure in the establishment of the Beat movement;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlinghetti was born in Bronxville, New York, on March 24, 1919, to
11 Carlo Ferlinghetti, an immigrant from Brescia, Italy, and Clemence Mendes-Monsanto; and

12 WHEREAS, While serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Mr. Ferlinghetti
13 adopted a lifelong commitment to pacifism and anti-war activism after witnessing first-hand
14 the action at the Normandy invasion and, later, the horrific aftermath of the atomic bomb that
15 obliterated Nagasaki; and

16 WHEREAS, After returning from his service, Mr. Ferlinghetti continued his academic
17 career and, in 1947, received a Master’s degree in English Literature from Columbia
18 University and, in 1950, a Doctorate de l’Université de Paris (Sorbonne); and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlinghetti pursued his passion in literature and moved to San
20 Francisco where he co-founded City Lights Bookstore in 1953, the first all-paperback
21 bookstore in the country that later became an international literary gathering place for writers,
22 readers, artists, and intellectuals; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1956, after the sale of Allen Ginsberg’s “Howl and Other Poems” to an
24 undercover police officer, Mr. Ferlinghetti was arrested and charged with the sale of obscene
25 material; and

1 WHEREAS, The ensuing affirmation of Mr. Ferlinghetti's First Amendment Rights in a
2 court of law helped established a legal precedent that strengthened the stature of City Lights
3 Publishers and invigorated the community's ongoing battle against censorship of controversial
4 works; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the course of his esteemed career, Mr. Ferlinghetti's influence
6 expanded into the international literary and arts scene, earning him numerous international
7 awards and coming full circle when, in 1998, he was declared San Francisco's Poet Laureate;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlinghetti's paintings have been displayed in galleries and museums
10 around the world, including the Smithsonian Museum of American Arts, the Fine Arts Museum
11 of San Francisco, Centre Pompidou in Paris, and Museo di Roma in Trastevere, Italy; and

12 WHEREAS, As the centennial of his birth looms, Mr. Ferlinghetti continues to energize
13 the international arts and literary world by blurring the boundaries between social justice
14 advocacy, literature and art, constantly challenging the status quo and demanding that we
15 "create works capable of answering the challenge of apocalyptic times"; and

16 WHEREAS, On Sunday, March 24, 2019, City Lights Booksellers and Publishers will
17 celebrate the life and legacy of its founder on the day of Mr. Lawrence Ferlinghetti's one-
18 hundredth birthday; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
20 recognizes Mr. Lawrence Ferlinghetti for his inspiring lifetime of contributions to the literature
21 and arts community of the world and proclaims March 24, 2019, as Lawrence Ferlinghetti Day
22 in 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: 190258

Date Passed: March 12, 2019

Resolution declaring March 24, 2019, as Lawrence Ferlinghetti Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

March 12, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 190258

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/12/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

Date Approved