Resolution supporting a permanent memorial in San Francisco for the victims and survivors of the Irish Famine, also known as the Great Hunger.

WHEREAS, In Ireland in the 19th century, the overwhelming majority of Irish people were prohibited from voting, from holding political office, from practicing their religion, from entering many professions, and from doing many other things that are necessary to succeed and prosper in life; and

WHEREAS, In the Great Hunger between 1845-52, over one million Irish people died and millions more emigrated; and

WHEREAS, The Irish population which peaked at 8.1 million in 1841 had fallen to four million by 1871, a decline of over 50%; and

WHEREAS, The Great Hunger was a tragedy compounded by a fundamentally unjust economic system and shamefully negligent government response to the crisis; and

WHEREAS, Millions of the "Famine Irish" sought refuge and simple survival in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Irish Famine Memorial committee is supported by a broad coalition of Irish organizations and friends of the Irish Community in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Irish Famine Memorial Committee has partnered with the Recreation and Parks Department to identify an appropriate location for the Memorial; and

WHEREAS, The Irish Famine Memorial Committee has partnered with the San Francisco Arts Commission to devise a plan to recommend a suitable Memorial; and
WHEREAS, A Famine Memorial will connect the Irish American community of San Francisco and California with our immigrant origins and recognize the contributions that the earliest Famine-era immigrants made to the United States, California, and San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Memorial will serve to thank the State of California and City and County of San Francisco for the welcome and opportunities that were afforded the Irish upon their arrival; and

WHEREAS, This San Francisco Memorial will serve to revive and sustain the memory of that great tragedy and remind those of us living in great material comfort of our own obligations to the poor of the world; and

WHEREAS, The Memorial will educate the public on the specific history and contributing factors of the Great Hunger and will remind us all of the devastating effects of famine which persist in many parts of the world to the present day; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is the Sister City of Cork, Ireland; and

WHEREAS, The Irish community has continued to make enormous contributions to the political, economic, social, and cultural life of San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports a permanent Irish Famine Memorial in San Francisco.
Resolution supporting a permanent memorial in San Francisco for the victims and survivors of the Irish Famine, also known as the Great Hunger.

March 05, 2019 Board of Supervisors - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE
Ayes: 11 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

March 05, 2019 Board of Supervisors - CONTINUED AS AMENDED
Ayes: 11 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

March 19, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/19/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board
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  

3/29/19  
Date