[Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women - May 5]

Resolution recognizing May 5 as the national day of awareness for Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

WHEREAS, Indigenous people have inhabited the North American continent, including the State of California, for many centuries, and from the first contact with settlers from other countries, Native Americans shared their knowledge of the land and its resources, and have continued to play a vital role in the development of local communities, the State of California, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Indian Relocation Act of 1956 named San Francisco as one of four cities in California to be a landing place for promised job training and was a law intended to encourage Native Americans in the United States to leave Indian reservations and their traditional lands and to assimilate into the general population in urban areas; between the 1950s and 1980s, as many as 750,000 Native Americans migrated to cities, and it is well documented that overall, the program had devastating long-term effects including but not limited to an increase of missing and murdered indigenous women; and

WHEREAS, The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls Report from the Urban Indian Health Institute released in 2019 provides data from 71 urban cities across the United States on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls; recognizes that a number of factors, including poor data collection by law enforcement and limited health resources, that there is an undercount of missing and murdered indigenous women (MMIW) in urban areas; and finds that San Francisco ranks tenth among cities with highest number of MMIW cases; and
WHEREAS, The 2009 Apology to Native People of the U.S. recognized the special legal and political relationship Indian tribes have with the United States and the solemn covenant with the land we share; recognized that there have been years of official depredation, ill-conceived policies, and the breaking of covenants by the Federal Government regarding Indian tribes; apologized on behalf of the people of the United States to all Native Peoples for the many instances of violence, maltreatment, and neglect inflicted on Native Peoples by citizens of the United States; and commended the State governments that have begun reconciliation efforts with Native American tribes located in their boundaries and encourage all State governments to work toward reconciling relationships with Indian tribes within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, The Bay Area has one of the highest populations of Native Americans in the country, and San Francisco specifically continues to be a place of residence, activism and cultural empowerment for the Native American community; and

WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco has taken progressive steps in restoration of American Indian traditions and policies such as legislating Indigenous People’s Day, supporting the American Indian Cultural Center, and compelling the removal of the ‘Early Days’ statue in the Civic Center; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a responsibility to address the disproportionate rates of victimization of indigenous women from domestic and sexual violence, including missing and murdered indigenous women; and;

WHEREAS, Jessica Nicole Alva (Blackfeet, Aztec, Yaqui) died on April 6, 2019, at the age of 35 after being in a coma for four days as a result of an abusive domestic relationship; and
WHEREAS, Jessica grew up in Redding and lived in San Francisco for five years and is survived by her mother Cindy Martin-Wolfe, six children, and four siblings with a step-brother and step-sister; and

WHEREAS, Organizations dedicated to documenting and monitoring MMIW, such as the Sovereign Bodies Institute, continue to face challenges with local jurisdictions’ record-keeping and cooperation, including the San Francisco Department, and specifically, in the case of Jessica Alva; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the grassroots movement for the safety of indigenous women led the struggle to include Title IX: Safety for Indian Women under the Violence Against Women Act. One of the findings of this title was that during the period of 1979 through 1992, homicide was the third-leading cause of death of Native American women aged 15 to 34; and

WHEREAS, Since that time, a study by the U.S. Department of Justice has found that in some tribal communities, Native American women face murder rates that are more than ten times the national average; and

WHEREAS, Over the last decade, awareness of this national issue has increased but more must be done at all levels to stop the disappearances and save lives; and

WHEREAS, May 5, 2017, was designated as the first national day of awareness for Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women through the efforts of surviving families, Native American tribes, national Indigenous organizations, and law and policy makers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco permanently designates May 5 as Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Day in the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will begin discussions with urban Native American organizations, neighboring Native American tribes,
and local tribal organizations to develop recommendations for local and indigenous victim
advocacy services, local and tribal justice responses, including coordination, and identify and
implement solutions to strengthen the safety, health, and well-being of indigenous women.
Resolution recognizing May 5 as the national day of awareness for Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

May 14, 2019 Board of Supervisors - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE
Ayes: 9 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Safai, Stefani and Yee
Excused: 2 - Ronen and Walton

May 14, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED AS AMENDED
Ayes: 9 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Safai, Stefani and Yee
Excused: 2 - Ronen and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED AS AMENDED on 5/14/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

5/24/19
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.

[Signature]

Angela Calhoun
Clerk of the Board

5/24/2019

Date

File No.
190506