Resolution declaring December 8, 2016, as Tom Owen Day in the City and County of San Francisco, in recognition of his many years of outstanding service in the City Attorney’s Office and his well-deserved retirement.

WHEREAS, Tom Owen joined the San Francisco City Attorney’s Office in 1981 as a Deputy City Attorney immediately after his graduation from Stanford Law School; and

WHEREAS, Tom has devoted his entire career to the City, working nearly 35 years in the City Attorney’s Office, under three elected City Attorneys; and

WHEREAS, During that time, Tom has served as general counsel or primary advice attorney for the Department of the Environment, the Environment Commission, the Department of Emergency Management, the Disaster Council, the Controller’s Office, the Treasury Oversight Committee, the Civil Grand Jury, the Taxi Commission, and the Board of Appeals, among others; and

WHEREAS, Tom has also provided thousands of hours of legal assistance to the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the City Administrator, the Treasurer-Tax Collector, the Department of Elections, the Department of Public Works, and the Office of the Clerk of the Board, among others, and has represented the City in litigation at every level of the California and United States court systems; and

WHEREAS, Tom was the primary drafter of the 1996 Charter, which wholly replaced the 1932 Charter, is the primary source of authority as to the meaning of that Charter and has drafted many of the most complex Charter amendments that followed in the next 20 years; and
WHEREAS, Tom has likewise been a prolific drafter of ordinances, covering a wide range of subjects, and has also authored numerous formal legal opinions of the City Attorney's Office that have stood and will stand the test of time; and

WHEREAS, Tom has been an invaluable and indefatigable resource, both within the City Attorney's Office and throughout City government, on the most challenging and complicated questions of municipal law lending to each writing task his unique capacity to render complex subjects in lucid and simple language, and has served as a mentor to the many City employees who have worked with him, including attorneys and staff; and

WHEREAS, Tom approaches every task and assignment—no matter how complicated or controversial—with professionalism, aplomb, cool-headedness, efficiency, and good humor; and

WHEREAS, Every member of this Board of Supervisors, and scores of those who have served on the Board during Tom's stellar career, have relied on and benefited from Tom's wise counsel, his perspective on municipal governance, his incisive analysis, his extraordinary writing skills, his integrity, and his fundamental decency; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors and the City are immeasurably better for Tom's service; and

WHEREAS, Tom's service to the City will be ending on December 31, 2016, with his retirement, which, though richly deserved, will be lamented by this Board and many others in City government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, In celebration of Tom Owen's outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the City and County of San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors does hereby declare December 8, 2016, to be Tom Owen Day in San Francisco.
Resolution declaring December 8, 2016, as Tom Owen Day in the City and County of San Francisco, in recognition of his many years of outstanding service in the City Attorney's Office and his well-deserved retirement.

December 06, 2016 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 10 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/6/2016 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 his 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