RESOLUTION NO. 25-05

[Honoring Matt Gonzalez]

Resolution honoring Matt Gonzalez.

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez was elected to the Board of Supervisors in December of 2000, winning 65% of the vote in a December runoff becoming the first Green Party member elected to public office in San Francisco representing District 5 which includes the Western Addition, the Haight/Ashbury, Inner Sunset, Hayes Valley, Cole Valley, and Japantown neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez worked on many issues during his tenure including: leading the effort to raise the minimum wage in San Francisco to the highest in the United States; as the chief sponsor to implement instant runoff voting (IRV), passing the strictest controls on chain stores of any major American city and prohibiting the selling of naming rights to Candlestick Park; and on the unsuccessful efforts to give immigrants the right to vote in School Board Elections, and to create a municipal utility district/public power authority in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez also was the chief sponsor of many ordinances and resolutions including: creating a homeless shelter monitoring committee, prohibiting elephants from being kept at the SF Zoo, authorizing domestic partners/family members as additional occupants, reconstitution of the Bicycle Advisory Committee based on district representation, 50 caliber firearms ban, requesting the Controller's Fire Department audit, conditional use ordinance for the Haight neighborhood/commercial district, formula retail ordinance in Hayes/Gough and Cole Valley neighborhood/commercial districts, resolution authorizing SB 307 monies in Japantown, supplemental appropriations for the Homeless Prenatal Program, protocols for the Office of Citizen Complaints and Police Department, whistleblower

protections for city employees, municipal bank analysis, resolution urging Bechtel Corporation to withdraw claims against Cochabamba, Bolivia, bicycle lanes from Baker to Scott, biodiesel MUNI pilot program, community land trust task force, resolution urging an end to the hotel worker lockout, creating a Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, saving the Page Street garden, urging resignation of Julie Lee from Housing Authority, resolution supporting autonomy of KPFA, resolution supporting Liberation Radio and asking the Federal Government not to interfere with micro radio stations, resolution authorizing more motorcycle parking, hearings on animal testing at UCSF, on police practices in arresting war demonstrators, and resolutions honoring poet Carl Rakosi, New Paltz Mayor Jason West, long time Sun-Reporter columnist Tom Fleming, gallery owner Charles Campbell, and Spanish prosecutor Carlos Castresana, and Milton Wolff and other veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez was assisted in his work by many outstanding legislative aides including Enrique Pearce, Rob Eshelman, Larry Roberts, Marianne Love, Amy Laitinen, Dave Grenell, and Jim Dorenkott; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez was elected President of the Board of Supervisors on January 8, 2003 becoming the first Latino elected to the position in the City's history and the first third party member to win the post since Franck Havenner was elected president as a member of the Progressive Party in the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez used the appointment power of the board presidency to appoint Randall Knox to the Board of Appeals, Christina Olague to the Planning Commission, Noelle Hanrahan, Philip Ting, and Criss Romero to the Building Inspections Commission; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez brought many reforms to the board including moving the meetings from Monday to Tuesday; alternating the introduction of new items during roll call, reducing the number of full board meetings to 3 a month, and as the chief sponsor of a voter

approved measure making the job of Supervisor a full time one and designating the the salary be set by the civil service commission; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez also served as the chair of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) during which time the agency held public meetings on desalinization, solar energy, community aggregation, tidal and wave energy, and San Francisco's freshwater lakes; and funding a study on the electric financial feasibility of municipalized power; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez brought his own style to public office hosting over 40 art shows in his City Hall office including shows by Laura Allen, Yvonne Beatty, Paul Blake, John Bovio, Laila Carlsen, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Melina Finkelstein, Enrique Gildardo, Albert Herter, Jack Hirschman, Sam Kowarski, Josh Lazcano, Jose Ramon Lerma, Nichk Leyton, George Long, Barry McGee, Felix Macnee, Rebecca Miller, Hadley Northrop, Sherry Olson, Rene Pinchuk, Michael Rauner, Rob Reger, Steven Richards, Lynn Rubenzer, Tom Schultz, Christine Shields, Paul Spencer, ruth weiss, and Will Yakulic; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez used his TV Show on Channel 26 to promote many of the artists who showed work in his office, and filmakers such as Christian Bruno, Sam Green, Veronica Majano, David Martinez, David Murray, and Charlotte Tai, and to disseminate interviews with such public figures as Jello Biafra, Gary Birnbaum, Peter Camejo, Kevin Danaher, Arianna Huffington, Sarah Lipson, Ralph Nader, Greg Palast, Tim Redmond, Jonathan Richman, and members of the San Francisco Brewer's Guild; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez engaged the public through various public addresses including the commencement address at the San Francisco Law School in 2002, the Raven Lecture at the Boalt Law School in 2004, and by teaching a class on art & politics at the San Francisco Art Institute in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez, during his tenure in public office, published over 25 opinior
editorials, book reviews and interviews in various publications including the San Francisco
Chronicle, San Francisco Examiner, San Francisco Bay Guardian, San Francisco Bayview
Newspaper, San Francisco Recorder, Frontlines, Mesh Magazine, Bang!, and the San
Francisco Call, including interviews with former Clash lead singer and guitarist Joe Strummer
and former San Francisco Sheriff Richard Hongisto; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez, while in office, was honored by the Mexican American Political Association (Nativo Lopez, state president) with their "Bert Corona" award and by In Defense of Animals (Elliot Katz, president) with their "Guardian Award"; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez ran a progressive campaign for Mayor of San Francisco in 2003 (winning 19% of the vote in the General Election) and narrowly losing to his then-colleague, Supervisor Gavin Newsom (133,000 to 119,000 votes, 53% to 47%); and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez has stated his intent to return to the practice of law which he engaged in for a decade before his entry into politics; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez has been called "courageous" by Ralph Nader, a "communist" by SF Chronicle columnist Ken Garcia, and a "defender of the poor" by Dolores Huerta; and

WHEREAS, Matt Gonzalez has demonstrated that he is a fearless advocate for his causes and a courteous foe to his opponents; a friend to immigrants, poets, elephants and the downtrodden; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors heartily congratulates Matt Gonzalez for his exemplary public service and wishes him well in his private endeavors.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



City and County of San Francisco Tails

City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Resolution

File Number:	050008	Date Passed:
Resolution honor	ing Matt Gonzalez.	
January 4, 200	5 Board of Supervis	sors — ADOPTED
	Ayes: 10 - Alioto- McGoldrick, Pesk Excused: 1 - Daly	
	File No. 050008	I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on January 4, 2005 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County
		of San Francisco.
	in () 8 2003	Gloria L. Young Clerk of the Board
	Date Approved	Mayor Gavin Newsom