

1 [Commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the San Francisco Building and Construction  
2 Trades Council]

3 **Resolution commemorating the 125th anniversary of the San Francisco Building and**  
4 **Construction Trades Council.**

5  
6 WHEREAS, On February 6, 1896, the San Francisco Building & Construction Trades  
7 Council was founded and led by P.H. McCarthy, President of the Carpenters Union Local 22;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council is one of the  
10 oldest labor Councils in America; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1900, the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council  
12 founded a weekly newspaper "Organized Labor," which remains one of the oldest labor  
13 papers in the country and is still published today; and

14 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council worked to  
15 secure an eight-hour workday as early as 1896 as part of their ongoing efforts to improve  
16 working conditions for laborers and craftsmen; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1897, the Building Trades Working Card was initiated, and with it, the  
18 tradition of union craftsmen not working on jobs with non-union workers from another craft;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Union labor has been instrumental in rebuilding San Francisco, following  
21 both the earthquakes and fires of 1906 and 1989, and building San Francisco during the  
22 construction boom following World War II; and

23 WHEREAS, Union labor has contributed to nearly every iconic project in San  
24 Francisco, from the Golden Gate Bridge in the 1930's to the present-day Salesforce Transit  
25 Center; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1988, the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council  
2 staged one of the largest labor rallies in San Francisco history as a show of opposition to the  
3 Associated Building and Contractors and the “Open Shop” movement; and

4           WHEREAS, The affiliates of the San Francisco Building Trades Council have set a  
5 standard for training through registered apprenticeship, cementing the path to the middle  
6 class through the union hiring hall; and

7           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Building Trades Council has consistently supported  
8 pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs that offer life changing career  
9 opportunities to historically disadvantaged people, particularly women and people of color;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Building Trades Council have negotiated some of the  
12 strongest and most effective Project Labor Agreements, including the Mission Bay, SFPUC,  
13 and City agreements delivering thousands of family sustaining jobs to the region; and

14           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Building Trades Council has continued to fight for a  
15 skilled and trained workforce to promote job training, family sustaining wages, retirement  
16 security, and healthcare; and

17           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Building Trades Council has a strong vision for San  
18 Francisco, where its members earn enough to live where they work, of leading industry to  
19 promote inclusion and equity in the workforce, and of modelling adaptive leadership to meet  
20 the demands of our members and trade partners while being the foundation of Labor’s  
21 resurgence in California; now, therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the  
23 historic contributions to the City and County of San Francisco and overall labor movement  
24 over the past one-hundred and twenty-five years by the San Francisco Building and  
25 Construction Trades Council; and, be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco commends the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council for their continuing and unfailing efforts to advance wages and employment conditions for their members and all construction workers.

