RESOLUTION NO. 184-2005

Adopted November 15, 2005

MEMORIALIZING AND COMMENDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
CHERYL EVONNE TOWNS
TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

BASIS FOR RESOLUTION

1. Ms. Cheryl Evonne Towns, the Redevelopment Agency's recently-retired Public Affairs Officer, died suddenly of heart disease on October 29, 2005 at the age of 56.

2. Ms. Towns retired on September 16, 2005, after a combined 25 years of dedicated public service, including eight years with the Redevelopment Agency. She worked on many redevelopment projects, but of particular note were her invaluable contributions to the Museum of the African Diaspora during its infancy.

3. Ms. Towns was a native of San Antonio, Texas and was trained as an educator, holding a Masters Degree in Educational Administration from Columbia University. She started her career as a community college educator serving the Bayview Hunters Point community, where she was a long-time resident.

4. Ms. Towns began her public service career as a Staff Aide to California State Senator Milton Marks and subsequently served as a Legislative Aide to San Francisco Board of Supervisors member Doris M. Ward. While working for Supervisor Ward, Ms. Towns started and ran the New Bayview Committee, a leading community group in the Bayview Hunters Point, that helped develop the South Bayshore Plan for the community.

5. Ms. Towns continued her public service with the City's Department of Public Works as the Public Information Officer and liaison to the Bayview Hunters Point community. Before joining the Redevelopment Agency, Ms. Towns worked as a community and government relations representative for the University of California in the Western Addition.

6. Ms. Towns was a co-founder of the San Francisco Housing Development Corporation (SFHDC), which praised and honored her earlier this year as follows: "Ms. Towns was the voice of reason and experience. She helped SFHDC negotiate the complexity of serving both the Western Addition and Hunters Point communities and the indifference of City Hall. Cheryl had the vision and wisdom to keep SFHDC headed in the right direction."
7. Ms. Towns was also a member of the Advisory Council of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), as well as Black Women Organized for Political Action, and many other public service and civil rights organizations.

8. The persona of Cheryl Evonne Towns cannot be summed up in just a few words because she epitomized a vibrant and productive life, full of vigor, flair and personality, and, as a treasured member of the Redevelopment Agency staff and the larger San Francisco community, she will be sorely missed, but remembered fondly.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco on behalf of its past and present Commissioners, Executive Directors and employees expresses to the family, friends and colleagues of Cheryl Evonne Towns, the Agency’s appreciation, respect and admiration for the outstanding work and the many contributions rendered by Cheryl Evonne Towns to the Agency and the City and County of San Francisco, and that this resolution represents a token of the high regard in which Cheryl Evonne Towns is held by all.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

James B. Morales
Agency General Counsel