

RESOLUTION NO. 112-2009

Adopted October 20, 2009

COMMENDING AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO RAMON E. ROMERO FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

BASIS OF RESOLUTION

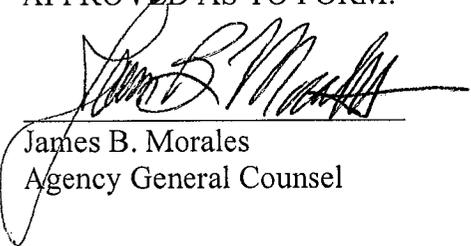
1. Ramon E. Romero has served as a Commissioner of the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco (“Agency”) since March 1998. Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. first appointed him and subsequently re-appointed him in 2001; Mayor Gavin Newsom re-appointed him to a third term in 2005. He has served the City and County of San Francisco (“City”) and the Mayors who appointed him with distinction, loyalty, and intelligence.
2. During his tenure, Mr. Romero’s colleagues on the Commission twice elected him as Commission President. He presided over the Commission meetings with fairness, efficiency, and diplomacy. He emphasized the importance of following rules of decorum during public comment and Commission deliberations to ensure that the debate over important and sometimes controversial issues occurred in a smooth and orderly manner. Mr. Romero was the first Latino to serve as President of the Agency Commission.
3. Mr. Romero approached each issue and project before the Commission with objectivity, analytical rigor, and astuteness. His comments always demonstrated the thoroughness of his preparation and his understanding of the complexities of redevelopment activities in a politically-fragmented urban environment. He publicly acknowledged and appreciated the professionalism and technical knowledge of Agency Executive Directors and staff members in their recommendations to the Commission, even when he disagreed with those recommendations.
4. In his eleven and one-half (11½) years of public service on the Commission, Mr. Romero has supported, and the Commission has adopted, numerous redevelopment plans and specific development projects that have improved, and will continue to improve, the economic vitality, urban landscape, and quality of life in San Francisco. With his oversight and approval, the Agency adopted the Mission Bay, Transbay, Bayview Hunters Point, and Visitacion Valley Redevelopment Plans. These thirty (30) year plans commit the City and the Agency to use the significant powers under redevelopment law to create positive changes in blighted areas where tens of thousands of San Franciscans live and work.

5. Mr. Romero's commitment to economic justice and equal opportunity has been demonstrated through his strong support for affordable housing development and for tangible public benefits required of private development. Since Mr. Romero's appointment, the Agency has expanded its affordable housing program and approved the development or preservation of thousands of units of affordable housing. He has also strongly supported the targeting of contracting and employment opportunities created by Agency-approved development to persons of color and those who are economically-disadvantaged.
6. Mr. Romero has served as an important link between the Agency and the City's Latino community. Although the Agency does not have a project area in any neighborhood where large numbers of Latinos live, Mr. Romero has promoted opportunities for the Latino community in specific projects. In particular, he has been a stalwart of the Mexican Museum's efforts to move to the Yerba Buena Center Redevelopment Project Area and provide a world-class facility for Mexican and other Latino art.
7. Mr. Romero has also served the City in other capacities during his Commission tenure. Most significantly, Mayor Newsom appointed him as a member of the Ten Year Planning Council that prepared, after numerous public meetings, The San Francisco Plan to Abolish Chronic Homelessness, which established the goal of providing 3000 supportive housing units for the chronically homeless. Mr. Romero served as chair of the Permanent Supportive Housing Committee.
8. Upon his departure from the Agency Commission, Mr. Romero will continue to serve the public interest through his work as an attorney for the California Teachers Association, a board member of the California Rural Legal Assistance, and other civic and community activities.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco, on behalf of the Agency's past and present Commissioners, Executive Directors, and Employees, recognizes Ramon Romero's significant public service that he has provided to the City and Agency and hereby expresses its sincerest appreciation and best wishes to him in all of his future endeavors.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



James B. Morales
Agency General Counsel