

RESOLUTION NUMBER R-298263

ADOPTED ON JUL 28 2003

WHEREAS, Dr. Al Best was born in Pueblo, Colorado, and lived in Colorado Springs, Steamboat Springs and Denver, Colorado, during his youth, followed by a 20-year career in the airline industry, during which time he received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Colorado, as well as a master's degree from the University of New Mexico and a Ph. D. from New Mexico State University; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, shortly after arriving in San Diego, Dr. Al Best began his long career as an activist in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), and HIV/AIDS communities as a volunteer doing fund-raising for the Gay Center and the Metropolitan Community Church, and as one of the four founders of Stepping Stone, Inc., where he helped create the first public listings of gay Alcoholics Anonymous meetings; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Dr. Al Best became the first business person to act as a spokesperson for the Gay Alliance for Equal Rights, which participated in political campaigns that impacted the LGBT community; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Dr. Al Best became the first openly gay person to run for City Council in San Diego history, finishing fifth in a field of 11 candidates, and was one of the first 10 gay people in America to be certified on an election ballot; and

WHEREAS, from 1980 to 1985, Dr. Al Best served as a volunteer and board member of the Gay Center and Stepping Stone, and served as the first President of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club; and

WHEREAS, from 1986 to 1989, Dr. Al Best served as Executive Vice President of Protocol Development for the Community Research Group, one of 46 community-based HIV/AIDS clinical trial networks in the United States and the first group to do trials outside the U.S.; and during this time was also a fellow of Bio-Medical Research of America, a member of the Institutional Review Board which reviewed HIV/AIDS protocols being used by San Diego hospitals and doctors, a member of Associates of Clinical Pharmacology, a member of the Congressional Crime Task Force, a member of Mayor Maureen O'Connor's Violent Crimes Task Force, and a member and founder of Safe Neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Dr. Al Best was the first openly gay person appointed to the San Diego Equal Opportunity Commission by Mayor Maureen O'Connor; in 1990, he was the first openly gay person sworn into the San Diego Civil Service Commission; in 1992, became the Commission's first openly gay President; and in 1993, was the first openly gay person to be sworn in as President of the National Civil Service Commissioners and was the organizations first president elected by accolade; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Dr. Al Best, along with his partner Eduardo Moncada, co-chaired the first-ever World Film Festival, a week-long event bringing more than \$1 million to San Diego which concluded with a live broadcast to all of Southeast Asia; and with Eduardo also co-chaired the first major event for the Human Rights Coalition, raising over \$83,000; and


WHEREAS, Dr. Al Best currently serves as Vice-Chair of Something Special Food Pantry, an all-volunteer organization that serves over 650 families with members who are living with or impacted by HIV/AIDS, and is also a member of the City of San Diego's Medical Marijuana Task Force; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2003, Dr. Al Best will be honored at a community tribute banquet hosted by the Imperial Court de San Diego and the 2003 Tribute sponsors at the U.S. Grant Hotel, with the proceeds benefitting the Benjamin F. Dillingham III Community Grant Fund; NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the citizens of San Diego, does hereby recognize the hard work, dedication, and unparalleled community service of DR. AL BEST, and commends him for 28 years of service and commitment to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, and HIV/AIDS communities in San Diego.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, June 22, 2003, be and is hereby proclaimed to be "DR. AL BEST DAY" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By 

Lisa A. Foster
Deputy City Attorney

LAF:jab
6/19/03
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