

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 300925

ADOPTED ON OCT 10 2005

WHEREAS, Pathfinders of San Diego was founded in 1950 by a small group of men, all members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who opened a storefront in downtown San Diego where men living on skid row were offered a sober environment if they wanted it; and

WHEREAS, their idea—sober alcoholics helping practicing alcoholics stop drinking—was simple and effective and, within a few years, Pathfinders gained widespread respect; and

WHEREAS, Pathfinders of San Diego incorporated as a non-profit organization and was able to acquire three large residences in the Golden Hill area near downtown San Diego, which remain Pathfinders' main recovery homes, accommodating forty men from around San Diego County, representing all races, religions, and income levels; and

WHEREAS, Pathfinders has long been recognized by county and state officials as a pioneer in social-model recovery, a program that relies on self-motivation and peer support; and

WHEREAS, Unlike medical-based programs, which use trained therapists, social-model recovery presumes alcoholics can best understand their problems by closely associating with others in recovery, and Pathfinders' homes are staffed by men who themselves are in long-term recovery from alcoholism and are dedicated to helping each resident return to society as a productive, self-supporting individual; and

WHEREAS, Residents attend daily Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, are expected to contribute to the cost of their stay, and volunteer for the many community support projects in which Pathfinders participates and for which it receives widespread recognition; and

WHEREAS, Residents typically spend from three to nine months in the recovery home and if, at any time, a resident drinks or uses illegal drugs he is evicted and will not be readmitted; and

WHEREAS, The single most important requirement for admittance to Pathfinders is willingness to accept responsibility for one's own recovery; and

WHEREAS, More than 5,000 men have participated in Pathfinders, the oldest alcohol recovery home of its kind in California, since the program began in 1950; and

WHEREAS, The Pathfinders recovery program in recent years has expanded to include two special groups of alcoholic men: Shelter Plus Care and the Serial Inebriate Program [SIP]; and

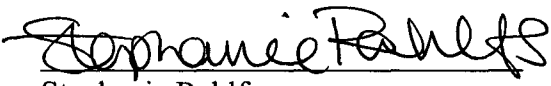
WHEREAS, Shelter Plus Care serves homeless alcoholics with a dual diagnosis of substance abuse and mental illness, considered by health officials as one of the most underserved groups of homeless people in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Pathfinders was one of the first recovery providers contacted by the City to help implement the innovative, nationally recognized Serial Inebriate Program, which is operated by the City of San Diego and offers recovery help to persons repeatedly arrested for public drunkenness; and

WHEREAS, Pathfinders' 55th Annual Homecoming is set for Saturday, October 8, 2005;
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 proclaim October 8, 2005, to be **“PATHFINDERS OF SAN DIEGO DAY”** in the City of San Diego in honor of their outstanding service, leadership, and commitment.

APPROVED: MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE, City Attorney

By 
Stephanie Rahlfs
Deputy City Attorney

SR:jb
09/26/2005
Or.Dept:Council-Madaffer
R-2006-296