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RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 303389

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE FEB 19 2008

WHEREAS, Al Smithson was born in North Carolina, moved to San Diego in 1964 and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego in 1969; and

WHEREAS, in the beginning of his career, Al Smithson worked as a law clerk for Federal District Judge Jacob Weinberger, who was the first resident district court judge in San Diego; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970's, Al Smithson was one of the first openly gay lawyers in San Diego and now is a Pro Bono Incorporating Attorney for The Center; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Al Smithson was also one of the founding members and remains on the board of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego [MCCSD], a ministry focused on changing attitudes toward worship in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender [LGBT] community; and

WHEREAS, Al Smithson and a small group of MCCSD congregants often spent Friday nights going to gay bars with the purpose of telling people about MCCSD as a safe place to worship; they would refer to this as "Bar Ministry"; and

WHEREAS, Al Smithson is the founding member of the Greater San Diego Business Association [GSDBA], which is a non-profit organization dedicated to building strength and prosperity in the lesbian and gay community through networking and social activities; and

WHEREAS, Al Smithson is former chairman of the board and board member of The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center [The Center] of San Diego, which

enhances and sustains the health and well-being of the LGBT and HIV communities by providing activities, programs, and services that create community, empower community members, provide essential resources, advocate for civil and human rights and embrace, promote and support cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, Al Smithson is a charter member and former vice president of the San Diego Democratic Club and is the first openly gay delegate appointed from San Diego County to the California Democratic Central Committee; and

WHEREAS, Al Smithson is active with additional groups such as Seniors Active in a Gay Environment [SAGE] and Physicians for Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, Al Smithson is the author of San Diego's longest running, award-winning, gay legal column entitled, "The Philly Lawyer," which ran consecutively in *The Prodigal*, *The Pacific Coast Times* and *The Update*; and


WHEREAS, Al Smithson authored and presented the long-running television program entitled, "Gay People and the Law" that was broadcast on public access television and presented reflections on the history of the gay community in Hillcrest; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby commend Al Smithson for the progress he has helped bring to fruition and for the imprint he has had on San Diego's LGBT community.

(R-2008-581)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that January 27, 2008, be and is hereby proclaimed to  
be, "AL SMITHSON DAY" in the City of San Diego.


APPROVED: MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE, City Attorney

By   
Sharon B. Spivak  
Deputy City Attorney

SBS:als  
01/11/08  
Or.Dept:Council-Atkins  
R-2008-581

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San  
Diego, at this meeting of FEB 5 2008.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND  
City Clerk

By   
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 2.19.08  
(date)

  
JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
JERRY SANDERS, Mayor