

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: John Rahaim, Director, Planning Department
Sheryl Evans Davis, Director, Human Rights Commission
Todd Rufo, Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Jonas Ionin, Commission Secretary, Historic Preservation Commission
Olson Lee, Director, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
Barbara A. Garcia, Director, Department of Public Health
Jeff Kositsky, Director, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing
Shireen McSpadden, Executive Director, Aging and Adult Services Commission
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Small Business Commission
Tom DeCaigny, Director of Cultural Affairs, Arts Commission
Susan Pontious, Director of Public Art Program, Arts Commission
Trent Rhorer, Executive Director, Human Services Agency
Maria Su, Director, Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
Nadia Sesay, Interim Executive Director, Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure
Tom Hui, Director, Department of Building Inspection
Mohammed Nuru, Director, Public Works
Jocelyn Kane, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission
Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, Recreation and Parks Department

FROM: *ll for* Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director
Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: February 6, 2017

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Kim on January 31, 2017:

File No. 170131

Resolution establishing the Compton's Cultural District with the intent of

commemorating historical sites, preserving existing spaces, and planning for vibrant communities that are TGILGB (Transgender, Gender-variant, Intersex, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual) affirming.

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: alisa.somera@sfgov.org.

c: Scott Sanchez, Planning Department / Historic Preservation Commission
Lisa Gibson, Planning Department / Historic Preservation Commission
AnMarie Rodgers, Planning Department / Historic Preservation Commission
Aaron Starr, Planning Department
Joy Navarrete, Planning Department / Historic Preservation Commission
Jeanie Poling, Planning Department
Ken Rich, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Lisa Pagan, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
John Rahaim, Historic Preservation Commission
Tim Frye, Historic Preservation Commission
Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, Historic Preservation Commission
Georgia Powell, Historic Preservation Commission
Eugene Flannery, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
Kate Hartley, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
Greg Wagner, Department of Public Health
Colleen Chawla, Department of Public Health
Bridget Badasow, Aging and Adult Services Commission
Menaka Mahajan, Small Business Commission
Rebekah Krell, Arts Commission
Sharon Page Ritchie, Arts Commission
Krista Ballard, Human Services Agency
William Strawn, Department of Building Inspection
Carolyn Jayin, Department of Building Inspection
Frank Lee, Public Works
John Thomas, Public Works
Lena Liu, Public Works
Crystal Stewart, Entertainment Commission
Sarah Madland, Recreation and Parks Department

1 [Establishing the Compton’s Cultural District]

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3 **Resolution establishing the Compton’s Cultural District with the intent of**
4 **commemorating historical sites, preserving existing spaces, and planning for vibrant**
5 **communities that are TGILGB (Transgender, Gender-variant, Intersex, Lesbian, Gay,**
6 **and Bisexual) affirming.**

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8 WHEREAS, The boundaries of the District are defined as the north side of Market
9 Street between Taylor Street and Jones Street, to the south side of Ellis Street between
10 Mason Street and Taylor Street, and the north side of Ellis between Taylor Street and Jones
11 Street as well as the 6th Street corridor (on both sides) between Market Street and Howard
12 Street; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Park Service LGBTQ Initiative recognized multiple sites in
14 the Compton’s Cultural District as having significant historical value including 101 Taylor, the
15 site of the Compton’s Cafeteria Riots in August 1966, “one of the earliest examples of
16 transgender push back against police repression,” and marking the beginning of a nationwide
17 TGILGB civil rights movement; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2015, the San Francisco Planning Department issued the LGBTQ
19 Historic Context Statement (“Statement”) describing and uncovering the rich and multi-layered
20 TGILGB history of the Tenderloin and Mid-Market area; and

21 WHEREAS, The Statement described the first Gay affirming march in San Francisco,
22 known as Gay Freedom Day Parade, walked down Polk Street, in 1970, and the latest
23 incarnation, the San Francisco Pride Celebration, currently marches down Market Street,
24 through parts of the District; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Statement outlined the rich history of the Tenderloin and Mid-Market
2 area including having been the site of some of the first lectures on homosexuality by anarchist
3 Emma Goldman in 1899 at 117 Turk Street; the first and largest public gathering of Lesbians
4 at the Hotel Whitcomb at 1231 Market Street, and the first public discussion on parenting for
5 both gay men and lesbians at Glide Memorial Church at 441 Ellis Street in 1966; and

6 WHEREAS, The LGBTQI community has frequently relied on night-life spaces as the
7 centers of community-building and the Tenderloin and Mid-Market area have been the hub of
8 gay nightlife from the 1940s to the present, and these past and present spaces of theaters,
9 bars, cafes, and clubs include Black Cat Café at the basement of 54 Mason Street, Old Crow
10 at 962 Market Street; Silver Rail at 974 Market Street; Gangway at 841 Larkin Street; Aunt
11 Charlie's at 133 Turk Street; Tait's Café at 44 Ellis Street; Why Not at 517 Ellis Street; Gilded
12 Cage at 126 Ellis Street; Peter Pan at 30 Mason Street; Rocket Club at 230 Turk Street; Blue
13 and Gold at 136 Turk Street ; Club Turkish Baths at 132 Turk Street; Streets of Paris at 54
14 Mason Street; Frolic Room at 141 Mason Street; Donut Palace at 1019 Market Street; Deco
15 Lounge at 510 Larkin Street; Tea Room Theatre at 154 Eddy Street; Queen Mary's Pub at
16 133 Turk Street; Strand Theater at 1051 Market Street; Jackson's Bar and Grill at 118 Jones
17 street; Crystal Bowl at 1032 Market Street; 1228 Club at 1228 Sutter Street; Kip's Bar at 70
18 Eddy Street; Tay-Bush Inn at 900 Bush Street; 585 Club at 585 Post Street; and the Rocket
19 Club at 236 Leavenworth Street, and

20 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin and Mid-Market area was the site of literary inspiration and
21 freedom, and also hosted the Adonis bookstore at 348 Ellis Street as one of the first gay
22 bookstores in the nation; and

23 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin and Mid-market area became a nucleus of social services
24 directed at TGILGB people including the Tenderloin Clinic at 251 Hyde Street which provided
25 services to gay San Franciscans in the 1980s, the Tenderloin AIDS Network at 200 Golden

1 Gate Avenue, and the Janus Information Facility at 681 Ellis Street, that supported Female to
2 Male (“FTM”) medical transitions; and

3 WHEREAS, Many TGILGB persons, specifically Transgender and Gender-variant
4 individuals, faced and continue to face discrimination in accessing housing, and the
5 Tenderloin was and is a refuge, specifically SRO (Residential Hotels) housing stock such as
6 the El Rosa Hotel at 166 Turk Street that in the 1960s rented to Transgender women; and

7 WHEREAS, Today there is a vibrant TGILGB community, in the Tenderloin and Mid-
8 Market area, and in specific Trans women, who consider the Tenderloin the last place of
9 refuge; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the 2015 San Francisco Homeless Point-In-Time Count
11 Report and Survey, 29% of all homeless are TGILGB, many of whom are on the streets in and
12 around the District and transition into low-income hotels in the District; and

13 WHEREAS, The Trump administration has a complete disregard for the lives and
14 safety of the TGILGB community, and in particular Transgender women, and while the District
15 memorializes the whole history of the Tenderloin and Mid-Market area, it seeks to concentrate
16 the District within the aforementioned boundaries in order to create a vibrant, safe, and
17 supportive neighborhood for the Transgender community; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
19 (hereinafter “the Board”) establishes the Compton’s Cultural District to preserve and further
20 develop the Tenderloin and Mid-Market area’s past, present, and future manifestation of
21 TGILGB communities and resources, recognize the historical and present contributions of the
22 community and neighborhood, and to specifically stabilize TGILGB residents and their
23 housing, artists and performing arts institutions, businesses and community-serving
24 institutions; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the Human Rights
2 Commission along with the Office of Economic Workforce Development (“OEWD”), the
3 Planning Department, and the Compton’s Cultural District working group consisting of
4 members of the community representing the following sectors: residents, historical
5 preservationists, arts and cultural workers, small business owners and employees, club
6 promoters and nightlife experts, housing and tenant advocates, TGILGB advocates, land use,
7 social and health services, and city department and other local agency staff to develop a
8 strategic implementation plan to set policies that promote community development and
9 stabilization, and increase the presence and visibility of the District; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, Other city departments and other bodies may be requested to
11 be part of the strategic planning of the District, including but not limited to: the Historic
12 Preservation Commission; Office of Housing & Community Development; Department of
13 Public Health; Department of Homelessness; Aging and Adult Services Commission; Small
14 Business Commission; San Francisco Arts Commission; Department of Human Services;
15 Department of Aging and Adult Services; Department of Children, Youth and their Families;
16 Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure; Department of Building Inspection,
17 Department of Public Works; Entertainment Commission, and Park and Recreation
18 Department, and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That such strategic plan for the Compton’s Cultural District be
20 developed by the working group in conjunction from the above listed government bodies be
21 submitted to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors within 8 months of adoption
22 of this resolution; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board commends the effort of the TGILGB
24 community in working with the Office of Supervisor Kim towards the creation of the Compton’s
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1 Cultural District that will contribute to the well-being of the TGILGB community in the City and
2 County of San Francisco.

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