

1 [Commemorative Street Name Designation - "Panos Place" - 100-200 Block of Corbett
2 Avenue]

3 **Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Panos Place" to Corbin Place**
4 **between the 100 and 200 block of Corbett Avenue in recognition of San Francisco**
5 **resident Panagiotis Koutsoyannis.**

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7 WHEREAS, Corbett Heights Neighbors, a Corona Heights neighborhood association
8 formed in 2004, has formally requested that San Francisco rename Corbin Place, a short
9 stairway with gardens located perpendicular to, and between, Corbett Avenue and 17th Street
10 in the Corona Heights neighborhood of the City, to honor long time San Francisco resident
11 Panagiotis Koutoyannis, aka "Panos"; and

12 WHEREAS, Corbin Place is not a street; rather, it is a 60 foot stairway of 40 concrete
13 steps perpendicular to and linking the 100-200 block of Corbett Avenue to the 4000th block of
14 17th Street; with two gardens, each 21 feet wide on both sides of the stairway; located on
15 Department of Public Works property without any houses or structures accessible from Corbin
16 Place; and is generally identified on internet- accessible maps as the "Corbin Stairs;" and

17 WHEREAS, From the "S.F. Board of Supervisors Proceedings N.S 4" from 1909,
18 Corbin Place was dedicated and so named on 8 December 1909 (San Francisco Bill 1117,
19 Ordinance No. 988); and

20 WHEREAS, Diligent research has not conclusively confirmed the identity of the person,
21 if any, for which Corbin Place was named, speculation is that it may be for a Major General
22 Corbin who was born in Ohio but visited San Francisco for ten days, arriving on October 6 of
23 1904, while en route to the U.S. colony of the Philippines where he was to assume a position
24 as a Commander, this according to the San Francisco Chronicle in its edition of October 6,
25 1904; and

1 WHEREAS, Diligent research has failed to unearth any other indicia of San Francisco
2 related civic accomplishments of said Major Corbin or any contributions he might have made
3 to the betterment or history of the City; and

4 WHEREAS, Panagiotis Koutoyannis has lived in a residence that abuts the west side
5 garden of Corbin Place since 2009; and

6 WHEREAS, The stairway and the two gardens of Corbin Place were not regularly
7 maintained by the City until Mr. Koutoyannis commenced to do so in 2011, and thereafter he
8 continuously replanted and maintained the gardens; installed lights, seasonal decorations,
9 and an irrigation system; and added notable historical and San Francisco-specific artwork to
10 the gardens; and

11 WHEREAS, Thanks to the past and continuing work of Mr. Koutoyannis, all at his own
12 expense, the two gardens at Corbin Place are stunning and beautiful islands of green, light,
13 and delight to adults and children alike, as well as to the many Muni riders who regularly use
14 the stairs to access the 37 bus on Corbett Avenue; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2019 Corbett Heights Neighbors honored Mr. Koutoyannis for his
16 extraordinary work and generous contribution to the neighborhood by hosting an event in his
17 honor there, an event attended by scores of neighbors; and

18 WHEREAS, In view of the generous contribution of Mr. Koutoyannis, in both money
19 and time, in gifting the neighborhood this exceptional, peaceful, and beautiful island of green
20 and whimsy between two well-travelled traffic arteries, Corbett Avenue and 17th Street; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Municipal Transportation
23 Agency to erect street signs at Corbin Place, located between the 100 and 200 block of
24 Corbett Avenue, indicating both the honorary and the existing names of the street, either on a
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1 single sign or on separate signs, with the honorary name "Panos Place" in smaller letters
2 above or beneath the existing name.

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