

1 [Tina Modotti Commendation]

2
3 **Resolution commending Tina Modotti an independent, liberated woman of incredible**
4 **talent, intelligence and social commitment who resided in San Francisco in 1913**
5 **through 1918.**

6
7 WHEREAS, Assunta Adelaide Luigia Modotti Mondini, known as Tina Modotti, was a
8 celebrated photographer, documentarian, model, actress, and a famed revolutionary political
9 activist who demonstrated heroism, passion, and self-sacrifice in all of her work; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1913, Tina Modotti emigrated to San Francisco from the Friuli district of
11 Italy, to join her father and older sister in the family home in North Beach, located at 1952
12 Taylor Street, and later resided at 901 Union Street until 1918; and,

13 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti was deeply influenced by the Italian theatre and opera
14 productions in Washington Square Park, of which her family were frequent patrons; and,

15 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti launched her stage career in 1916 with roles in the popular
16 amateur theatre clubs of San Francisco, and quickly rose to become a celebrated actress in
17 the Italian theatre and light opera districts in North Beach, such that her performances and
18 personal life were recorded in the prominent Italian-language newspaper, *L'Italia*; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Italian-American district of North Beach, in which Tina Modotti lived,
20 was home to a thriving political and cultural scene, her father frequently hosted political
21 gatherings in their home, and Tina Modotti herself used her acting prowess to raise funds for
22 Red Cross activities during World War I; and,

23 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti moved from San Francisco to further distinguish herself as
24 photographer, working alongside mentor and creative partner Edward Weston in Mexico, and
25

1 ultimately becoming the photographer of choice for the blossoming Mexican mural movement,
2 documenting the works of José Clemente Orozco and Diego Rivera; and,

3 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti's impassioned political beliefs led her to engage in
4 significant missions on behalf of International Worker's Relief organizations, and to tend the
5 wounded under extreme battlefield danger during the Spanish Civil War, running hospital
6 operations during the short-lived republic; and,

7 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti's brilliant and varied career had its auspicious beginnings in
8 San Francisco, between 1913 and 1918; and,

9 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti's works are owned by the Museum of Modern Art, the
10 Metropolitan Museum of in New York, George Eastman House in Rochester, New York and
11 other prestigious institutions; and,

12 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti considered San Francisco to be her city of adoption, saying
13 in a January 23, 1926, letter to Edward Weston: "[San Francisco] might be called my home
14 town"; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That Tina Modotti is hereby recognized by the San Francisco Board of
16 Supervisors for her significant contributions to the artistic and cultural heritage of our city, and
17 commended to the citizens of San Francisco for the recognition and preservation of her
18 memory.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 081407

Date Passed:

Resolution commending Tina Modotti an independent, liberated woman of incredible talent, intelligence and social commitment who resided in San Francisco in 1913 through 1918.

November 18, 2008 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 081407

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on November 18, 2008 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

11/25/2008

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom