

1 [Establishment of Compton's Transgender Cultural District]

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

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8 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors intends to establish the Compton's
9 Transgender Cultural District ("District"), whose boundaries are defined as the north
10 side of Market Street between Taylor Street and Jones Street, to the south side of Ellis
11 Street between Mason Street and Taylor Street, and the north side of Ellis Street
12 between Taylor Street and Jones Street as well as the 6th Street corridor (on both
13 sides) between Market Street and Howard Street; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Park Service LGBTQ Initiative recognized multiple
15 sites in the Compton's Transgender Cultural District as having significant historical
16 value including 101 Taylor, the site of the Compton's Cafeteria Riots in August 1966,
17 "one of the earliest examples of Transgender push back against police repression," and
18 marking the beginning of a nationwide Transgender, Gender-variant, Intersex, Lesbian,
19 Gay, and Bisexual (TGILGB) civil rights movement; and

20 WHEREAS, At its November 18, 2015 hearing, the San Francisco Historic
21 Preservation Commission adopted the Citywide LGBTQ Historic Context Statement
22 ("Statement") describing and uncovering the rich and multi-layered TGILGB history of
23 the Tenderloin and Mid-Market area; and

24 WHEREAS, The Statement described the first Gay affirming march in San
25 Francisco, known as Gay Freedom Day Parade, walked down Polk Street, in 1970, and

1 the latest incarnation, the San Francisco Pride Celebration, currently marches down
2 Market Street, through parts of the District; and

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

9 WHEREAS, The TGILGB community has frequently relied on night-life spaces as
10 centers of community-building and the Tenderloin and Mid-Market area have been the
11 hub of gay nightlife from the 1920s to the present, and the Statement and local
12 historians have identified several past and present theaters, bars, cafes, and clubs,
13 including: The Old Crow at 962 Market Street; Silver Rail at 974 Market Street;
14 Gangway at 841 Larkin Street; Aunt Charlie's at 133 Turk Street; Tait's Café at 44 Ellis
15 Street; Why Not at 517 Ellis Street; Gilded Cage at 126 Ellis Street; Peter Pan at 30
16 Mason Street; Rocket Club at 230 Turk Street; Blue and Gold at 136 Turk Street ; Club
17 Turkish Baths at 132 Turk Street; Streets of Paris at 54 Mason Street; Frolic Room at
18 141 Mason Street; Donut Palace at 1019 Market Street; Deco Lounge at 510 Larkin
19 Street; Tea Room Theatre at 154 Eddy Street; Queen Mary's Pub at 133 Turk Street;
20 Strand Theater at 1051 Market Street; Jackson's Bar and Grill at 118 Jones street;
21 Crystal Bowl at 1032 Market Street; 1228 Club at 1228 Sutter Street; Kip's Bar at 70
22 Eddy Street; Tay-Bush Inn at 900 Bush Street; 585 Club at 585 Post Street; and the
23 Rocket Club at 236 Leavenworth Street, as well as The Doggie Diner; The Hillard; The
24 Sound of Music; Rossi's and The Chukker Club which were central meeting spaces for
25 the Transgender community; and

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

4 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin and Mid-Market area became a nucleus of social
5 services directed at TGILGB people including the Tenderloin Clinic at 251 Hyde Street,
6 which provided services to gay San Franciscans in the 1980s, the Tenderloin AIDS
7 Network at 200 Golden Gate Avenue, and the Janus Information Facility at 681 Ellis
8 Street, which supported Female to Male (“FTM”) medical transitions; the National
9 Transsexual Counseling Unit on Golden Gate between Leavenworth and Jones, which
10 operated the first peer-run drop in trans counseling service in the world, funded by
11 Transgender industrialist and philanthropist Reed Erickson; the Helping Hands Center,
12 home to Gay Activist Alliance, Lavender Panthers, and various trans centered social
13 services for neighborhood residents; Glide Memorial Methodist Church, who ministered
14 to LGBT people, particularly youth, and where many important organizations were
15 founded and efforts established, including: the queer street youth organization
16 Vanguard; the first Transgender support group called Conversion Our Goal; the
17 organization that became the Central City Anti-Poverty District; the first Christian
18 ecumenical organization to address LGBT issues called The Council on the Religion
19 and the Homosexual; Citizen’s Watch, a queer-led police-monitoring group; as well as
20 the offices of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon; and

21 WHEREAS, Many TGILGB persons, specifically Transgender and Gender-
22 variant individuals, faced and continue to face discrimination in accessing housing, and
23 the Tenderloin was and is a refuge, specifically SRO (Residential Hotels) housing stock
24 such as the El Rosa Hotel at 166 Turk Street; The Camelot Hotel on Turk; The Hyland
25 Hotel at 101 Taylor; The Bijou at Turk and Mason and The Ambassador Hotel, that in

1 the1960s rented to Transgender women; and

2 WHEREAS, Today there is a vibrant TGILGB community, in the Tenderloin and
3 Mid-Market area, and in specific Transgender women, who consider the Tenderloin the
4 last place of refuge; and

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

9 WHEREAS, The Trump administration has a complete disregard for the lives and
10 safety of the TGILGB community, and in particular Transgender women, and has
11 recently instructed the Department of Justice and the Department of Education to
12 withdraw guidance to schools receiving federal funds to interpret Title IX as a protection
13 against discrimination based on gender identity and expression; and

14 WHEREAS, The Board wishes to memorialize the whole history of the Tenderloin
15 and Mid-Market area, acknowledging the District within the aforementioned boundaries
16 seeks to create a vibrant, safe, and supportive neighborhood for the Transgender
17 community particularly trans women of color; and

18 WHEREAS, Under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, the Planning
19 Department and the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development are
20 currently engaged in the development of a Citywide LGBTQ Cultural Heritage Strategy
21 with members of the LGBTQ community, including the TGILGB community; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
24 Francisco establishes the District to preserve and further develop the Tenderloin and
25 Mid-Market area's past, present, and future manifestation of TGILGB communities and

1 resources, recognize the historical and present contributions of the community and
2 neighborhood, and to specifically stabilize TGILGB residents and their housing, artists
3 and performing arts institutions, businesses and community-serving institutions; and, be
4 it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Planning
6 Department ensure that the TLGB community is adequately represented in the LGBTQ
7 Cultural Heritage strategy participants, and through the District working group to
8 establish a District working group consisting of members of the community
9 representation in the following sectors: residents, historical preservationists, arts and
10 cultural workers, small business owners and employees, club promoters and nightlife
11 experts, housing and tenant advocates, TGILGB advocates, land use, social and health
12 services, and City department and other local agency staff, to develop a strategic
13 implementation plan to set policies that promote community development and
14 stabilization, and increase the presence and visibility of the District; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution does not mandate the creation of a
16 working group and, if the Departments choose to create the working group, the Board of
17 Supervisors will not appoint its members and the working group will not be subject to
18 the requirements set forth in Board of Supervisors Rules of Order 2.21; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That if the Departments create a working group, as
20 described in this Resolution, the Board of Supervisors anticipates that the working
21 group will be an advisory body subject to the requirements of the Sunshine Ordinance
22 and the Brown Act; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That other City departments and other bodies may be
24 requested to be part of the strategic planning of the District, including but not limited to:
25 the Historic Preservation Commission; the Office of Economic Workforce Development;

1 Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development; Department of Public Health;
2 Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing; Small Business Commission;
3 Arts Commission; Department of Human Services; Department of Aging and Adult
4 Services; Department of Children, Youth and their Families; Office of Community
5 Investment and Infrastructure; Department of Building Inspection, Department of Public
6 Works; Entertainment Commission, and Recreation and Park Department, and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges that the strategic plan for the
8 Compton's Transgender Cultural District be developed and included in the LGBTQ
9 Cultural Heritage Strategy, in conjunction from the above listed government bodies and
10 be submitted to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors by the Spring of
11 2018; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board commends the effort of the TGILGB
13 community in working towards the creation of the Compton's Cultural District that will
14 contribute to the well-being of the TGILGB community in the City and County of San
15 Francisco.

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