

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Carla Short, Director, Public Works

FROM: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: December 19, 2025

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Mahmood on December 16, 2025.

File No. 251270

Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Stephen Tennis Way" to the 200 block of Eddy Street, in recognition of Stephen Tennis's decades of service, stewardship, leadership, and community-building in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco.

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: john.carroll@sfgov.org.

cc:
Offices of Chair Melgar and Supervisor Mandelman
David Steinberg, Public Works
Ian Schneider, Public Works
Jason Wong, Public Works

1 [Commemorative Street Name Designation - Eddy Street from Jones Street to Taylor Street -
2 "Stephen Tennis Way"]

3 **Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Stephen Tennis Way" to the 200**
4 **block of Eddy Street, in recognition of Stephen Tennis's decades of service,**
5 **stewardship, leadership, and community-building in the Tenderloin neighborhood of**
6 **San Francisco.**

7
8 WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis has dedicated decades of his life in service of others,
9 especially to the Tenderloin community of San Francisco; and

10 WHEREAS, As one of the first and longest-serving Corner Captains of Safe Passage,
11 Stephen Tennis acted as a good shepherd to thousands of children, guiding them safely
12 through the streets of the Tenderloin and ensuring their passage to school, home, work, and
13 after-school programs was joyful, safe, and welcoming in rain, shine, or San Francisco fog;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, As the Park Steward of Boeddeker Park, Stephen Tennis ensured the park
16 remained a refuge—a recreational, community, and cultural gathering place where residents
17 and visitors could find safety, connection, celebration, and community; and

18 WHEREAS, As a tenant leader with the Central City SRO Collaborative, Stephen
19 Tennis championed policies to improve the quality of life for thousands of low-income
20 residents in the Tenderloin and beyond, advocating for ideas such as clearing Turk Street of
21 parked cars, adding brighter streetlights, removing one-way high-speed traffic lanes through
22 the Tenderloin, expanding Safe Passage, strengthening rent control, supporting Vision Zero,
23 and improving repair times for SRO elevators; and
24
25

1 WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis served his country as a U.S. Merchant Marine during the
2 Vietnam War years, enlisting at the age of 18 and contributing to national service with courage
3 and resilience; and

4 WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis lived a youth shaped by adventure—and occasional
5 misadventure—evidenced by his broken nose, hand-to-hand combat skill, and an ability to
6 take a punch, all of which became legendary to those who knew him; and

7 WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis committed to sobriety and, through immense
8 perseverance, transformed his life into one defined by kindness, protectiveness of others, and
9 steadfast optimism, inspiring others to become the best versions of themselves through his
10 belief in their ability to change; and

11 WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis was also known for his spirited culinary opinions—rightly
12 denouncing tuna casserole with soggy potato chips as one of the worst dishes ever devised
13 and proclaiming his mother’s lentil soup as among the all-time greats; and

14 WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis’s appreciation for classic romance films—especially *An*
15 *Affair to Remember* with Deborah Kerr and Cary Grant—reflects his lifelong belief in love,
16 hope, and sentiment; and

17 WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis shaped the world around him with his chivalry, leather-
18 blazer-wearing charm, twinkling eyes, and gentle heart, always remaining the person one
19 would want beside them in a fistfight or in life; and

20 WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis once said, “When I go before St. Peter at the gates, I want
21 to make sure that the ledger has something on the positive column,” a testament to his life of
22 generosity and service; and

23 WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis also once expressed that he “didn’t realize so many
24 people loved him,” though his profound impact on community members, advocates, families,
25 and neighbors makes that love abundantly clear; and

1 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Works and the Office of the Supervisor
2 representing the Tenderloin are in receipt of a request from community members, advocates,
3 and neighborhood partners to honor Stephen Tennis by designating the 200 block of Eddy
4 Street with the commemorative name "Stephen Tennis Way"; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That in order to honor the extraordinary contributions, leadership, and
6 legacy of Stephen Tennis, there shall be an honorary naming of "Stephen Tennis Way" on
7 the 200 block of Eddy Street; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Works is directed to add this
9 honorary street name to its official list of Commemorative Street Names in accordance with
10 Public Works Code, Section 789 et seq.