

1 [Emperor Norton Bridge.]

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3 **Resolution urging the California Department of Transportation and members of the**  
4 **California Assembly and Senate to name the new additions to the San Francisco Bay**  
5 **Bridge in honor of Emperor Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of**  
6 **Mexico.**

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8 WHEREAS, Joshua Abraham Norton, an member of Gold Rush San Francisco's  
9 business community, social set and the Committee of Vigilance did, due to a total reversal of  
10 fortunes in the early 1850s, become mentally imbalanced and supplanted a pursuit of wealth  
11 with a care for people; and

12 WHEREAS, On September 17, 1859, Joshua Abraham Norton proclaimed himself  
13 Norton I, Emperor of the United States in order to calm public fear of national political crisis;  
14 and,

15 WHEREAS, Emperor Norton recognized that the American nation had become  
16 composed of individuals representing nearly all the world's nationalities and religions and  
17 worked to bring harmony to the various factions in society until his untimely death on January  
18 8, 1880; and,

19 WHEREAS, His Majesty did work for universal religious tolerance by attending all  
20 churches and opposed the enforcement of state Sunday Laws which discriminated against  
21 Germans and Jews; and,

22 WHEREAS, Emperor Norton fought for cultural diversity in schools when he argued  
23 that teaching students to speak French and German was absolutely necessary to preserve  
24 the language of their parents; and,

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1           WHEREAS, When iron men who sailed wooden ships went on strike for a living wage,  
2 Emperor Norton anticipated legendary Harry Bridges and called on ship owners to do justice,  
3 thereby enabling San Francisco to emerge as a strong union town; and,

4           WHEREAS, Emperor Norton worked tirelessly for civil rights when he commanded the  
5 arrest of all who refused to allow African Americans to ride public streetcars, demanded their  
6 admission to the public schools, and named the African-American newspaper Pacific Appeal  
7 his Imperial Gazette; and,

8           WHEREAS, Emperor Norton preceded the state five full years when he commanded  
9 that the evidence of Chinese be taken in all Courts of Law and Justice, and furthermore  
10 pronounced that "the eyes of the EMPEROR will be upon anyone who shall council any  
11 outrage or wrong on the Chinese"; and,

12           WHEREAS, When His Majesty recognized that great injustice had been done to Native  
13 Americans, he made known his intention to have publicly punished all Indian agents and  
14 other parties connected with frauds against the Indian tribes; and,

15           WHEREAS, On March 23, 1872, Emperor Norton ordered in a newspaper decree "that  
16 a suspension bridge be built from Oakland Point to Goat [Yerba Buena] Island and thence to  
17 Telegraph Hill" by the citizens of San Francisco and Oakland; now, therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, That this Board decrees that the future additions to the San Francisco  
19 Bay Bridge be designated "The Emperor Norton Bridge"; and, be it

20           FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Board urges the City of Oakland, which Emperor  
21 Norton frequently visited, to join in this endeavor; and, be it

22           FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Board urges the California Department of  
23 Transportation and members of the California Assembly and Senate to see to its  
24 accomplishment in the State Legislature.