

1 [Victoria Manalo Draves Park]

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3 **Resolution urging the Recreation and Park Commission to name the new park that is to**
4 **be built in the old Bessie Carmichael Elementary School site (on Sherman and Folsom)**
5 **as Victoria Manalo Draves Park.**

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7 WHEREAS, For many years, the City and County of San Francisco has failed to
8 recognize one of its distinguished women, Asian American/Filipino American, US Olympic
9 athlete, Victoria Manalo Draves; and,

10 WHEREAS, Victoria Manalo Draves won the 1942 US Junior National Diving
11 championship and the 1946, 1947, and 1948 US National Diving Championships platform
12 diving gold medal, as well as the 1948 springboard gold medal; and,

13 WHEREAS, In the 1948 Olympic Games, Victoria Manalo Draves achieved many firsts:
14 the first woman in Olympic history to win gold medals in both springboard and platform diving
15 events in the same games, the only swimmer or diver to win two individual gold medals, the
16 first American woman of Filipino heritage to win an Olympic gold medal in diving, and to date,
17 is the only woman of Filipino ancestry to win an Olympic gold medal; and,

18 WHEREAS, Victoria Manalo Draves was recognized in the 1948 edition of *Life*
19 *Magazine* as one of the top athletes at the 1948 Olympics, named Athlete of the Year by the
20 Helms Athletic Foundation of Southern California in 1948, selected as an All-American for the
21 5-meter and 10-meter platform dive events on the National AAU All-American Woman's
22 Swimming Team in 1949, and has been inducted to the International Swimming Hall of Fame
23 in Florida; and,

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1 WHEREAS, Victoria Manalo Draves was born in San Francisco to an English
2 immigrant mother and a Filipino immigrant father, living in the South of Market (SOMA)
3 Neighborhood for 23 years; and,

4 WHEREAS, Victoria Manalo Draves studied at the then, Fairmont Elementary School,
5 when Bessie Carmichael was the Principal, went on to attend Commerce High School, and
6 later graduated from San Francisco Junior College; and,

7 WHEREAS, Victoria Manalo Draves faced discrimination when San Francisco's Nob
8 Hill diving club required that she drop her father's Filipino name, Manalo, and take her
9 mother's maiden name, Taylor, in order to be acceptable to represent the organization; and,

10 WHEREAS, When she began to use her actual last name, Victoria Manalo Draves
11 experienced more discrimination even from her own swim club, the Oakland Athens Athletic
12 Club, which would not have her compete at a 1945 diving meet at the Fairmont hotel in San
13 Francisco; and,

14 WHEREAS, Victoria Manalo Draves is an important role model to the more than
15 100,000 Asian American (more than 40,000 Filipino American) residents of the City and
16 County of San Francisco; and,

17 WHEREAS, The new park serves as a needed resource for the South of Market
18 (SOMA) Neighborhood, a neighborhood that has a great concentration of immigrants and
19 people of color; and,

20 WHEREAS, The South of Market (SOMA) community has initiated and garnered
21 community wide support by gathering petitions and making presentations to various
22 community organizations; and,

23 WHEREAS, The South of Market Project Area Committee (SOMPAC), the SOMA
24 advisory body of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, voted unanimously to name the
25 new park after Victoria Manalo Draves; and,

1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Immigrants Rights Commission voted unanimously to
2 recognize the invaluable and tremendous contributions of the Filipina and Asian-American
3 immigrant, US Olympic athlete and Swimming Hall of Famer, SOMA resident and San
4 Francisco citizen Victoria Manalo Draves, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Recreation and Park
6 Commission to name the former Bessie Carmichael Elementary School site (on Sherman and
7 Folsom) as the Victoria Manalo Draves Park; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall send a copy of this resolution
9 to the Mayor’s Office, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS), Mayor’s Office of
10 Community Development (MOCD), the Recreation and Park Commission, and the
11 Department of Recreation and Park.

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