

1 [Naming the Waller Street Stairway as Adah's Stairway]

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3 **Ordinance: 1) establishing the name of the stairway on the southern portion of Waller**
4 **Street stairway at Waller and Broderick Streets and connecting that connects to Buena**
5 **Vista Park at Buena Vista East as "Adah's Stairway," in recognition of Adah**
6 **Bakalinsky, author of the book *Stairway Walks in San Francisco*; 2) commemorating**
7 **this location under Public Works Code Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative Street**
8 **Plaque Ordinance; 3) accepting a plaque and its installation in honor of Ms. Bakalinsky**
9 **as a gift to the City; 4) waiving permit and inspection fees for plaque installation; and 5)**
10 **directing official acts in furtherance of this Ordinance.**

11 NOTE: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;
12 deletions are *strike-through italics Times New Roman*.
13 Board amendment additions are double-underlined;
Board amendment deletions are ~~strike-through normal~~.

14 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

15 Section 1. Findings.

16 (a) In 1984, Adah Bakalinsky published the first edition of her book *Stairway Walks in*
17 *San Francisco*, bringing attention to the more than 350 public stairways in San Francisco that
18 are listed in the first book, each with its own unique personality. Adah has walked all of them.
19 The *New York Times* said of her book: ". . . a fascinating trek through the sidewalk staircases
20 hidden around the city." Paul McHugh, a Bay Area novelist and former *San Francisco*
21 *Chronicle* journalist, wrote: "Bakalinsky . . . is the Ferdinand Magellan, the Sir Francis Drake,
22 the Vasco da Gama of San Francisco stairways". There are now 670 public stairways that
23 have been created in the City and are available for exploration and learning about the unique
24 neighborhoods of San Francisco.

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1 (b) In May 2004, in celebration of the 5th edition and 20th anniversary of Ms.
2 Bakalinsky's book, former Mayor Newsom recognized Adah Bakalinsky, whose book has
3 turned her into a City institution and officially dedicated a day to San Francisco's stairways.
4 This day encompassed six free guided stairway walks that took place simultaneously
5 throughout San Francisco neighborhoods.

6 (c) According to the non-profit organization, San Francisco Beautiful: "Since the 1980s,
7 Adah has played a pivotal role in stairway improvement projects. Her contagious enthusiasm
8 and heartfelt encouragement have aided volunteers in formulating plans for stairway creation
9 and accompanying garden improvements. Adah has done much to make stairway gardens a
10 focal point for neighborhood activities. With her 'can do' spirit, whole neighborhoods have
11 come out of their secluded homes and formed work parties to beautify these public right of
12 ways."

13 (d) Local residents and tourists continue to use this book, now in its 7th revised edition
14 and almost 30 years old. Adah's book serves as an inspiration to others to work together to
15 beautify their neighborhood stairways and to write similar books in other cities.

16 (e) *Stairway Walks in San Francisco* continues to promote tourism of San Francisco's
17 unique neighborhoods and encourages healthy communities by inspiring people to experience
18 these outdoor open spaces, walk, and explore City neighborhoods.

19 (f) The stairway on the southern portion of Waller Street stairway at Waller and
20 Broderick Streets that connects to Buena Vista Park at Buena Vista East would be an
21 appropriate stairway to name in honor Ms. Bakalinsky and her contribution to San Francisco.
22 The stairway on the southern portion of this Waller Street public right-of-way segment consists
23 of a pedestrian stairway and lighting.

1 (g) The Department of Public Works, on behalf of the City, has complied with the
2 California Streets and Highway Code Section 970.5 and properly posted the street area
3 subject to this street name establishment for the specified time period.

4 Section 2. Naming the Stairway on the Southern Portion of Waller Street Stairway as
5 Adah's Stairway.

6 Consistent with the San Francisco Public Works Code, California Streets and
7 Highways Code Sections 970.5, 971, and 5026, and California Government Code Section
8 34091.1, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby establishes the name of the stairway
9 on the southern portion of Waller Street stairway at Waller and Broderick Streets that
10 connects ~~connecting~~ to Buena Vista Park at Buena Vista East as “Adah’s Stairway” in
11 recognition of Ms. Bakalinsky, her curiosity and exploration of San Francisco through its
12 neighborhoods and connecting stairways, and her ability to share the adventure and
13 exploration of stairways with all who come to San Francisco.

14 Section 3. Commemoration of Adah's Stairway.

15 The Board of Supervisors declares its intent to commemorate the abovementioned
16 stairway in accordance with Public Works Code Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative
17 Street Plaque Ordinance, in honor of Adah Bakalinsky.

18 Section 4. Gift Acceptance.

19 The Board of Supervisors accepts a commemorative plaque in honor of Ms. Bakalinsky
20 and its installation as a gift to the City and County of San Francisco.

21 Section 5. Fee Waiver.

22 Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Public Works Code, the Board of
23 Supervisors hereby waives all permit and inspection fees associated with the installation of
24 the commemorative plaque.

25 Section 6. Requested Official Actions.

1 (a) The San Francisco Board of Supervisors requests the Department of Public Works,
2 if feasible, to install a sign(s) identifying this stairway as "Adah's Stairway."

3 (b) The Board of Supervisors directs the Department of Public Works to add this
4 stairway to the Official City Map of commemorative sites.

5 (c) The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to promptly forward a copy
6 of this Ordinance to the County Surveyor in accordance with California Streets and Highways
7 Code Section 5026.

8 Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective 30 days from the
9 date of passage.

10 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
11 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

12 By: _____
13 John D. Malamut
14 Deputy City Attorney