

1 [Commemorative Street Name Designation - "Helen Waukazoo Way" - Julian Avenue]

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3 **Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Helen Waukazoo Way" to Julian**
4 **Avenue in recognition of Helen Waukazoo's legacy as the founder of Friendship House**
5 **and her contributions to the Native American community in the City and County of San**
6 **Francisco.**

7
8 WHEREAS, Helen Waukazoo, a proud Navajo woman and survivor of the federal
9 Indian boarding school system, dedicated her life to the healing, empowerment, and visibility
10 of Indigenous people in San Francisco and across the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, Helen Waukazoo was dropped off in San Francisco as part of the federal
12 policy that relocated many Native people in the 1950's with false promises of housing and
13 work, and Helen saw that many Native peoples who had been displaced to the city struggled
14 with substance use disorder; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1963, Helen Waukazoo founded the Friendship House Association of
16 American Indians as a place for people to reconnect with their culture and join a community of
17 other Natives looking for a place to heal and call home; and

18 WHEREAS, Helen Waukazoo transformed the Friendship House into a nationally
19 recognized model for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment by integrating traditional
20 Native healing practices with evidence-based treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, Under her stewardship, Friendship House has served more than 6,500
22 clients through their 80-bed SUD treatment program in San Francisco and 9-bed treatment
23 program in Oakland, providing a path to recovery rooted in cultural identity and dignity,
24 including cultural programming, advocacy, and vital community support for the San Francisco
25 Bay Area's American Indian community; and

1 WHEREAS, Helen Waukazoo's influence and leadership through Friendship House
2 and beyond ensured that San Francisco's urban Native American community remained
3 visible, vibrant, and supported; and

4 WHEREAS, Julian Avenue has served as the longtime home of Friendship House and
5 is located within San Francisco's American Indian Cultural District, within the Mission District;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Adding the commemorative "Helen Waukazoo Way" to Julian Avenue will
8 uplift Indigenous visibility and support the broader effort to "Indigenize San Francisco,"
9 ensuring that the City's public spaces reflect the enduring contributions and histories of
10 communities often underrepresented in the City's physical landmarks; and

11 WHEREAS, Helen Waukazoo's long-held dream was the creation of the Village SF, a
12 Native-led, wellness, cultural, and economic center designed to provide recovery housing,
13 workforce programs, a behavioral health clinic, and more—a home for future generations of
14 urban Indians; and

15 WHEREAS, The Friendship House, in partnership with neighborhood stakeholders and
16 community advocates, seeks to honor Helen's legacy; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That in order to honor the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of Helen
18 Waukazoo, there shall be an honorary naming of "Helen Waukazoo Way" on Julian Avenue;
19 and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the San
21 Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) fabricates and installs commemorative
22 street signs to be hung at Julian Avenue, marking its place within the American Indian Cultural
23 District and the Mission District; and, be it

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