

1 [Urging the Naming of City Hall Press Room After Barbara Taylor]

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3 **Resolution urging the naming of the second floor City Hall press room after legendary**
4 **San Francisco radio reporter Barbara Taylor.**

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6 WHEREAS, As the former City Hall bureau chief for KCBS radio in San Francisco,
7 Barbara Taylor was a fixture in the City Hall newsroom for four decades, from 1975 until her
8 retirement in 2015; and

9 WHEREAS, Barbara Taylor was a thorough reporter who covered pivotal moments in
10 San Francisco, from the assassinations of Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George
11 Moscone to the immediate aftermath of the Loma Prieta earthquake, with grace and
12 compassion; and

13 WHEREAS, Barbara Taylor was on a first name basis with generations of City Hall
14 staff, including seven Mayors, dozens of Supervisors and other elected officials, department
15 staff and custodial staff; and

16 WHEREAS, A native San Diegan and graduate of San Diego State University, Barbara
17 Taylor’s incisive and sympathetic reporting style was cultivated early on through social work,
18 where she learned to put subjects at ease with a warm and engaging manner; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the course of her four decades of work at City Hall covering politics,
20 elections, and all manner of City Hall happenings, Barbara Taylor became known as Dean of
21 the City Hall Press Corps and the “Grand Dame” of the City Hall Press Room – where even
22 her dog Tanner was admitted with a press pass bequeathed by the otherwise fastidious
23 Mayor Willie Brown; and

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1 WHEREAS, Barbara Taylor also co-authored a newspaper column for many years, and
2 served as the longtime on-camera host of “City Desk,” a weekly televised roundtable of
3 reporters that provided behind-the-scenes insight into the happenings at City Hall; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition to being known as a compassionate and warm presence in and
5 around City Hall, she was also a tenacious reporter who did not take “no” or “too busy” for an
6 answer from anyone; and

7 WHEREAS, Simply put, Barbara Taylor was the best in the business, universally
8 respected by her journalist colleagues as professional, deeply human, and committed to
9 expanding access to information for all journalists and for the broader public; now, therefore,
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
12 urges the City Hall Press Room be named the “Barbara Taylor Press Room” in recognition of
13 Barbara Taylor’s decades of work to cover the ins and outs of San Francisco City Hall with
14 compassion, tenacity, professionalism, and a deep dedication to elevating the discourse,
15 humanity, and potential of our political culture and society.