

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mohammed Nuru, Director, Public Works
William Scott, Police Chief, Police Department
Ed Reiskin, Executive Director, Municipal Transportation Agency
Joanne Hayes-White, Fire Chief, Fire Department

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Clerk
Land Use and Transportation Committee

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Yee on April 10, 2018:

File No. 180371

Resolution declaring the intention of the Board of Supervisors to rename Phelan Avenue, between Flood Avenue and Ocean Avenue, to "Frida Kahlo Way."

The proposed legislation officially names an unnamed street, pursuant to San Francisco Public Works Code, Section 423, California Streets and Highways Code, Sections 970.5, 971, 1806, and 5026, and California Government Code, Section 34091.1.

Pursuant to the Code mandates, your department's response to this street naming is required. A hearing for this matter will be scheduled upon receipt of all required department responses.

Please forward your response to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: Erica.Major@sfgov.org.

c: David Steinberg, Public Works
Jeremy Spitz, Public Works
Jennifer Blot, Public Works
John Thomas, Public Works
Lena Liu, Public Works
Rowena Carr, Police Department
Asja Steeves, Police Department
Sergeant Rachael Kilshaw, Police Department
Janet Martinsen, Municipal Transportation Agency
Kate Breen, Municipal Transportation Agency
Dillon Auyoung, Municipal Transportation Agency
Kelly Alves, Fire Department

1 [Resolution of Intention - Street Name Change - Phelan Avenue - "Frida Kahlo Way"]

2
3 **Resolution declaring the intention of the Board of Supervisors to rename Phelan**
4 **Avenue, between Flood Avenue and Ocean Avenue, to "Frida Kahlo Way."**

5
6 WHEREAS, Phelan Avenue is the name of the public right-of-way between Flood and
7 Ocean Avenues; and

8 WHEREAS, Phelan Ave was named in approximately 1906 after James Phelan, the
9 father of James Duval Phelan; and

10 WHEREAS, James Duval Phelan served as the Mayor of San Francisco from 1897 to
11 1902; and

12 WHEREAS, James Duval Phelan ("Phelan") (1861-1930) served as a U.S. Senator
13 from 1915 to 1921; and

14 WHEREAS, Phelan supported racist, xenophobic and anti-immigration policies; and

15 WHEREAS, Phelan supported the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the Immigration
16 Act of 1924, which halted immigration from China and Japan to the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, Phelan ran unsuccessfully for a second term and during this senatorial
18 campaign using anti-Asian rhetoric, such as "Keep California White" and "Save Our State from
19 Oriental Aggression"; and

20 WHEREAS, Phelan supported laws banning interracial marriage between Asians and
21 Caucasians; and

22 WHEREAS, In the 1970s, James D. Phelan State Beach was restored to its original
23 name, China Beach, when the National Park Service acquired the land; and

1 WHEREAS, The City College of San Francisco's main campus, at Ocean and Phelan
2 Avenues, was once named Phelan campus but was renamed the Ocean campus due to
3 Phelan's racist legacy; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2017, University of San Francisco students successfully lobbied to
5 rename the school's Phelan Hall to Burt A. Toler Hall, after an African-American alumnus; and

6 WHEREAS, Under the current Presidential administration, anti-immigrant, racist,
7 bigoted and white supremacist rhetoric and acts of violence have drastically increased; and

8 WHEREAS, Across the country, public statues, parks, plazas, buildings and streets
9 have been renamed to remove names that honored influential Confederate figures; and

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco remains a City that is founded on the principles of inclusion,
11 tolerance and diversity; and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco is proud to be a Sanctuary City that protects and supports
13 our immigrants; and

14 WHEREAS, There is a local, national and international movement to publically
15 recognize women in public offices and public places; and

16 WHEREAS, Supervisor Norman Yee's office conducted extensive community outreach
17 starting nine months ago and formed a Renaming Committee for Phelan Avenue that involved
18 residents and stakeholders to create a shortlist of names to replace Phelan Avenue; and

19 WHEREAS, The community voted on this list and elected to rename Phelan Avenue to
20 Frida Kahlo Way, in recognition of her contribution to San Francisco art and culture; and

21 WHEREAS, Frida Kahlo was a queer, Mexican woman of color with disabilities; and

22 WHEREAS, Frida Kahlo is an internationally recognized painter; and

23 WHEREAS, Frida Kahlo was married to the famous muralist, Diego Rivera, whose
24 world famous Pan American Unity mural is located on City College of San Francisco's Ocean
25 campus; and

1 WHEREAS, Frida Kahlo’s portrait is the one of the most widely recognized images in
2 the Pan American Unity mural; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1930, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo first lived and worked in San
4 Francisco when Rivera painted murals at The City Club of San Francisco and at the California
5 School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute); and

6 WHEREAS, During this time in San Francisco, Frida Kahlo befriended San Francisco
7 photographers, Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, and Edward Weston, and also painted
8 her “Frida and Diego Rivera” double portrait which is on display in the San Francisco Museum
9 of Modern Art; and

10 WHEREAS, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo deepened their connection to San Francisco
11 when Diego Rivera returned to the City in 1940 to paint the Pan American Unity mural at the
12 Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island (intended as a gift to City College of
13 San Francisco), while Frida Kahlo visited and the couple remarried in San Francisco; and

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends to rename Phelan Avenue to Frida
15 Kahlo Way to recognize Kahlo’s influence as a leader in the Latinx, feminist and the LGBTQ
16 communities; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to initiate
18 the City’s street renaming procedures, expeditiously process the required actions related to
19 street renaming, coordinate with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Office regarding posted
20 and published notice for the street renaming, and the report to the Board on its findings so
21 that the Board may officially rename the street.