

1 [Commemorative Street Plaques - SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District Historical
2 Markers]

3 **Resolution authorizing the placement of the SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage**
4 **District plaques, to be installed on the sidewalk at various historic location markers**
5 **along the 6th Street corridor between Market Street and Howard Street, and initiating**
6 **the process set forth in Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., to provide for the**
7 **creation of a program for and installation of commemorative plaques in the SoMa**
8 **Pilipinas Cultural District.**

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10 WHEREAS, The 6th Street Pedestrian Safety Project, a streetscape project located
11 on 6th Street between Market Street and Howard Street and within the SoMa Pilipinas
12 Filipino Cultural Heritage District, aims to create a safe and inviting place for people to walk
13 by transforming 6th Street with wider sidewalks, new traffic signals, and other streetscape
14 improvements; and

15 WHEREAS, The SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District seeks to create an
16 atmosphere that celebrates the presence, history, culture and resilience of Filipino people in
17 the SoMa neighborhoods, and espouses the belief that intentional placemaking allows the
18 broader public to engage in Filipino history; and

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Public Works and the
20 SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District have worked collaboratively to promote the
21 cultural heritage, history, and resilience of Filipino people in the neighborhood by promoting
22 the incredibly rich history of Filipino people in the United States by working with community
23 stakeholders to develop a design and identify suitable locations for the 6th Street
24 Community Identity Plaques project, which consists of the installation of commemorative
25 plaques within the SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District area that honor and

1 commemorate historical persons and events significant to the Filipino community; and

2 WHEREAS, Since the early twentieth century, San Francisco’s South of Market has
3 been home to a vibrant Filipino community that built and developed small businesses, arts
4 and cultural organizations, community-based direct service institutions, and after-school
5 educational programs serving generations of Filipino youth that have all played an integral
6 role in building the cultural and economic fabric of the City and County of San Francisco;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, As early as 1921, the first waves of Filipino migrants to settle in the
9 South of Market, known as SoMa Pilipinas, were a group of Filipino Merchant Marines who
10 pooled their resources together to establish the Grant Oriente mutual aid fraternity, which
11 included a 24-room boarding house for Filipino workers migrating up and down the West
12 Coast; and

13 WHEREAS, Additional waves of Filipinos moved to SoMa Pilipinas after being
14 displaced from what was known as Manilatown, a subsection of Chinatown; the struggle for
15 tenant rights and housing justice in San Francisco in the 1960s and 1970s came to a
16 flashpoint in 1977 with the eviction of elderly Filipino residents (also known as Manongs &
17 Manangs) from the International Hotel on Kearny Street; and

18 WHEREAS, In SoMa Pilipinas’ 100-year history, the community has come together
19 to organize and advocate for racial justice and equity, which has manifested in the
20 establishing community-based institutions that serve the social and economic needs of
21 Filipinos and other marginalized communities in South of Market and throughout the City
22 and County of San Francisco; and

23 WHEREAS, Despite cultural and economic barriers that many of SoMa Pilipinas’
24 constituents face, community-based organizations create opportunities for community
25 members to participate in decision-making processes that affect their everyday lives and

1 allow them to express their own self-determination; and

2 WHEREAS, SoMa Pilipinas is the epicenter for Filipino American arts, and home
3 to dance, literary arts, and theater organizations, such as KulArts, Kearny Street
4 Workshop, and Bindlestiff Theater (the only Filipino black-box theater in the United
5 States); and

6 WHEREAS, SoMa Pilipinas has been awarded the National Endowment for the Arts
7 (NEA) Our Town grant for creative placemaking, which is part of the Cultural Districts
8 overall strategy to enliven our public realm spaces with Filipino inspired public art,
9 wayfinding, and historical plaques; and

10 WHEREAS, The Cultural Identity Plaques allow the City and the Cultural District to
11 honor this important legacy and to educate future generations on the sacrifices that the
12 community has made in the evolution of the Cultural District with the aim of becoming a
13 more equitable city; and

14 WHEREAS, The following site markers that comprise the 6th Street Community
15 Identity Plaques project represent significant historical periods and movements that have
16 helped shape the cultural identity of the SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District:

- 17 • 6th Street between Market Street and Stevenson Street – Honoring the Filipino
18 migrant laborer, author and poet, Carlos Bulosan, who is recognized for his
19 literary achievements that honored the lives of Filipino laborers in farming and
20 canary work in California and throughout the West Coast;
- 21 • 6th Street between Stevenson Street and Jessie Street – Recognitions of the
22 struggle to save the I-Hotel and Manilatown;
- 23 • 6th Street between Jessie Street and Mission Street – Recognition of Filipino
24 World War II veterans and their struggle for recognition equity, and treatment
25 equal to that of other WWII veterans;

- 1 • 6th Street between Mission Street and Minna Street – Honoring Bullet X
2 Marasigan as one of the early Filipino leaders that advocated for more
3 resources for the community;
- 4 • 6th Street between Minna Street and Natoma Street – Recognition of the
5 contemporary community based-organizations in SoMa Pilipinas that are
6 continuing the legacy of community resilience and self-determination;
- 7 • 6th Street between Natoma Street and Howard Street – Recognition of the
8 artists and the art organizations that have made SoMa Pilipinas the epicenter of
9 Filipino American arts and culture; and

10 WHEREAS, The individuals, businesses, and organizations identified and recognized
11 by these plaques represent a part of the extensive history of the Filipino Community in the
12 South of Market area; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Public Works Code,
14 Section 789, et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, authorizes the placement
15 of the aforementioned historical marker commemorative street plaques on the sidewalk at the
16 named locations; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby urges the Arts
18 Commission to approve the design and the placement of the named commemorative plaques;
19 and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs San Francisco Public
21 Works to take all actions necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution, including
22 approval of the installation of the aforementioned plaques and performing installation of the
23 plaques as part of the 6th Street Pedestrian Safety Project, provided, however, that the City
24 shall not be required to replace plaques that are removed and/or are no longer available for
25 safe usage; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs San Francisco Public
2 Works to add the aforementioned plaques at the aforementioned locations on the City's
3 official list of commemorative sites effective immediately from the date of passage of this
4 Resolution.

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