

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## 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: SUBSTITUTE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

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

**File No. 180371**

**Resolution renaming Phelan Avenue, between Flood Avenue and Ocean Avenue, to "Frida Kahlo Way."**

The substitute 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.

Your agency has submitted their official response on this matter. Please submit any additional comments to me directly at [Erica.Major@sfgov.org](mailto: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 [Street Name Change - From Phelan Avenue to "Frida Kahlo Way"]

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3 **Resolution renaming Phelan Avenue, between Flood Avenue and Ocean Avenue, to**  
4 **"Frida Kahlo Way."**

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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

24

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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           WHEREAS, The Department of Public Works, in full compliance, with its regulations on  
15 street name changes, conducted its investigation on a street name change for Phelan Avenue  
16 between April 20 and May 21, 2018; results of such investigation are on file with the Clerk of  
17 the Board of Supervisors in File No. 180371, and are incorporated herein by reference; and

18           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors recognizes that the Department of Public  
19 Works, on behalf of the City, has taken all necessary actions to effect this name change,  
20 including fully complying with regulations regarding street name changes under California  
21 Streets and Highways Code, Section 970.5, which requires posted notice on the street for at  
22 least 10 days prior to the Board of Supervisors hearing on this resolution, Public Works Code,  
23 Section 423, California Government Code, Section 34091.1, and California Streets and  
24 Highways Code, Sections 970.5 and 5026; now, therefore, be it  
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1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby changes the name of Phelan  
2 Avenue to "Frida Kahlo Way" to recognize Kahlo's influence as a leader in the Latinx, feminist  
3 and the LGBTQ communities; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors in accordance with  
5 Transportation Code, Section 2.2, directs the Municipal Transportation Agency to prepare  
6 street signs indicating both the new and former names of the street, with the new name "Frida  
7 Kahlo Way" in large letters, and the old name "Phelan Avenue" in smaller letters above or  
8 beneath the new name; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That both of the street names shall remain posted on street  
10 signs for five years, and then the street signs shall be replaced with signs indicating only the  
11 new street name, "Frida Kahlo Way;" and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That in adopting this legislation, the Board of Supervisors  
13 does not intend to effectuate any change in City department jurisdictional control over the  
14 subject portion of "Phelan Avenue" to be known as "Frida Kahlo Way"; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
16 to promptly forward a copy of this Resolution to the County Surveyor in accordance with  
17 California Streets and Highways ,Code Section 5026, and that the County Surveyor include  
18 the new street name on the Official Map of the City.