

1 [Commemorative Street Name Designation - Eddy Street from Jones Street to Taylor Street -  
2 "Stephen Tennis Way"]

3 **Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Stephen Tennis Way" to the 200**  
4 **block of Eddy Street, in recognition of Stephen Tennis's decades of service,**  
5 **stewardship, leadership, and community-building in the Tenderloin neighborhood of**  
6 **San Francisco.**

7  
8 WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis has dedicated decades of his life in service of others,  
9 especially to the Tenderloin community of San Francisco; and

10 WHEREAS, As one of the first and longest-serving Corner Captains of Safe Passage,  
11 Stephen Tennis acted as a good shepherd to thousands of children, guiding them safely  
12 through the streets of the Tenderloin and ensuring their passage to school, home, work, and  
13 after-school programs was joyful, safe, and welcoming in rain, shine, or San Francisco fog;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, As the Park Steward of Boeddeker Park, Stephen Tennis ensured the park  
16 remained a refuge—a recreational, community, and cultural gathering place where residents  
17 and visitors could find safety, connection, celebration, and community; and

18 WHEREAS, As a tenant leader with the Central City SRO Collaborative, Stephen  
19 Tennis championed policies to improve the quality of life for thousands of low-income  
20 residents in the Tenderloin and beyond, advocating for ideas such as clearing Turk Street of  
21 parked cars, adding brighter streetlights, removing one-way high-speed traffic lanes through  
22 the Tenderloin, expanding Safe Passage, strengthening rent control, supporting Vision Zero,  
23 and improving repair times for SRO elevators; and

1           WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis served his country as a U.S. Merchant Marine during the  
2 Vietnam War years, enlisting at the age of 18 and contributing to national service with courage  
3 and resilience; and

4           WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis lived a youth shaped by adventure—and occasional  
5 misadventure—evidenced by his broken nose, hand-to-hand combat skill, and an ability to  
6 take a punch, all of which became legendary to those who knew him; and

7           WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis committed to sobriety and, through immense  
8 perseverance, transformed his life into one defined by kindness, protectiveness of others, and  
9 steadfast optimism, inspiring others to become the best versions of themselves through his  
10 belief in their ability to change; and

11          WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis was also known for his spirited culinary opinions—rightly  
12 denouncing tuna casserole with soggy potato chips as one of the worst dishes ever devised  
13 and proclaiming his mother's lentil soup as among the all-time greats; and

14          WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis's appreciation for classic romance films—especially *An*  
15 *Affair to Remember* with Deborah Kerr and Cary Grant—reflects his lifelong belief in love,  
16 hope, and sentiment; and

17          WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis shaped the world around him with his chivalry, leather-  
18 blazer-wearing charm, twinkling eyes, and gentle heart, always remaining the person one  
19 would want beside them in a fistfight or in life; and

20          WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis once said, "When I go before St. Peter at the gates, I want  
21 to make sure that the ledger has something on the positive column," a testament to his life of  
22 generosity and service; and

23          WHEREAS, Stephen Tennis also once expressed that he "didn't realize so many  
24 people loved him," though his profound impact on community members, advocates, families,  
25 and neighbors makes that love abundantly clear; and

1           WHEREAS, The Department of Public Works and the Office of the Supervisor  
2 representing the Tenderloin are in receipt of a request from community members, advocates,  
3 and neighborhood partners to honor Stephen Tennis by designating the 200 block of Eddy  
4 Street with the commemorative name “Stephen Tennis Way”; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That in order to honor the extraordinary contributions, leadership, and  
6 legacy of Stephen Tennis, there shall be an honorary naming of “Stephen Tennis Way” on  
7 the 200 block of Eddy Street; and, be it

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

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