

1 [Street Name Change - Sonora Lane to Vicha Ratanapakdee Way]

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3 **Resolution changing the street name of Sonora Lane, between O’Farrell Street and**  
4 **Terra Anza Avenue, in the Anza Vista neighborhood, to “Vicha Ratanapakdee Way.”**

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6 WHEREAS, On October 19, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No.  
7 489-21, declaring the Board’s intent to rename Sonora Lane, between O’Farrell Street and  
8 Terra Anza Avenue, to “Vicha Ratanapakdee Way,” and directing the Department of Public  
9 Works to initiate the City’s street naming procedures; and

10 WHEREAS, Sonora Lane is the existing name of the public right-of-way between  
11 O’Farrell Street and Terra Anza Avenue, and runs parallel to Anza Vista and St. Joseph’s  
12 Avenues, and is perpendicular to O’Farrell Street and Terra Anza Avenue; and

13 WHEREAS, Sonora Lane is in the Anza Vista neighborhood and near what was the  
14 home of Mr. Vicha Ratanapakdee, and which remains the home of his family; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Ratanapakdee was an 84-year-old immigrant from Thailand who was  
16 well known in the Anza Vista neighborhood for his hour-long walks each morning, a ritual that  
17 kept him vibrant and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

18 WHEREAS, On January 28, 2021, Mr. Ratanapakdee, while walking peacefully in the  
19 neighborhood, was suddenly and violently shoved to the pavement by an assailant, resulting  
20 in severe head injuries from which Mr. Ratanapakdee tragically died shortly after the attack;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Stop AAPI Hate, a California-based coalition, has recorded nearly 7,000  
23 hate incidents involving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide since the beginning  
24 of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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1           WHEREAS, Since Mr. Ratanapakdee’s passing, his daughter has dedicated herself to  
2 working to ensure survivors of these attacks and their families are supported through city  
3 services, law enforcement, and the justice system; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Ratanapakdee’s daughter has also worked to amplify the voices of  
5 Asian Americans and the Thai and Southeast Asian communities through her participation in  
6 marches, rallies, and many #stopAAPIHate events; and

7           WHEREAS, Renaming Sonora Lane to “Vicha Ratanapakdee Lane” would  
8 commemorate and memorialize Mr. Ratanapakdee’s death as a symbol of a movement  
9 towards equality, anti-discrimination, and solidarity with the Asian American and Pacific  
10 Islander Community, and as a reminder of the importance of peace among all peoples, in  
11 accordance with Mr. Ratanapakdee’s deepest values; and

12           WHEREAS, The Department of Public Works conducted a review and investigation of  
13 the proposed street name change as directed under Resolution No. 489-21, finding that the  
14 proposed street name does not exist in the City’s current list of official street names, and  
15 therefore does not warrant objection under Public Works Code, Section 423, and further  
16 finding that, pursuant to the process for changing street names set forth in the “Establishing  
17 Street Names” bulletin posted on the Department’s webpage, no City Agencies or fronting  
18 property owners object to the proposed name change; and

19           WHEREAS, On January 20, 2022, the Department of Public Works notified the Clerk of  
20 the Board of Supervisors that it had completed its investigation into the proposed renaming of  
21 Sonora Lane, the only segment of which runs between Terra Vista Avenue and O’Farrell  
22 Street, and the results of which investigation are on file with the Clerk of the Board in File No.  
23 210885, the file for this Resolution; and

24           WHEREAS, In compliance with the requirement of California Streets and Highways  
25 Code, Section 970.5, notice of a public hearing was posted at least 10 days prior to the

1 hearing on this Resolution before the Land Use and Transportation Committee, in at least  
2 three public places along the street proposed to be affected by the renaming; now, therefore,  
3 be it

4 RESOLVED, That pursuant to its authority under California Government Code, Section  
5 34091.1 and California Streets and Highways Code, Sections 970.5 and 5026, the Board of  
6 Supervisors hereby renames Sonora Lane, between Terra Vista Avenue and O'Farrell Street,  
7 to "Vicha Ratanapakdee Way" to honor Mr. Ratanapakdee's legacy, and to make clear that  
8 the City and County of San Francisco stands with its Asian American Pacific Islander  
9 communities during this extraordinarily difficult time for those communities; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Municipal  
11 Transportation Agency to erect street signs in accordance with Transportation Code, Section  
12 2.2, which signs should indicate both the new and the former names of the street affected by  
13 this Resolution—the new street name, "Vicha Ratanapakdee Way," in large letters and the  
14 former name, "Sonora Lane," in smaller letters above or beneath the new name—and such  
15 signs indicating the two street names shall remain posted for five years and then replaced  
16 with signs indicating only the new street name "Vicha Ratanapakdee Way;" and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That in adopting this legislation, the Board of Supervisors  
18 does not intend to effectuate any change in City department jurisdictional control over the  
19 public right-of-way to be renamed as "Vicha Ratanapakdee Way;" and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
21 to promptly forward a copy of this Resolution to the County Surveyor in accordance with  
22 California Streets and Highways Code, Section 5026, and that the County Surveyor include  
23 the new street name on the Official Map of the City; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Department of  
25 Public Works to add "Vicha Ratanapakdee Way" to the City's official list of street names.

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