

1 [Commemorative Street Name Designation - Oakdale Avenue between of Third Street and
2 Newhall - "James Richards Way"]

3 **Resolution adding the Commemorative Street Name "James Richards Way" on**
4 **Oakdale Avenue between Third Street to Newhall Street.**

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6 WHEREAS, As a young man, James Richards was mentored by the legendary Big
7 Five of Hunters Point, women who led efforts to deliver positive change for
8 disadvantaged youth and families of Southeast San Francisco, including Ms. Elouise
9 Westbrook; and

10 WHEREAS, James formed the organization Young Men for Action as a way to bring
11 together youth to fight for change; through his work with the San Francisco Housing Authority
12 in the 1970's James not only advocated for improving housing conditions, but for employment
13 opportunities for young people; and

14 WHEREAS, James formed close relationships with building trade unions and
15 established his own union electrical contracting company, Southeast Electrical, in 1984.
16 James was able to partner with the IBEW Local 6 and Laborers Local 261 to hire local
17 residents on local construction projects; and

18 WHEREAS, By the early 1990's however, James seized upon the opportunity to put
19 hundreds of local residents to work breaking down old naval ships at the Hunters Point
20 Shipyard. To maximize jobs for neighborhood residents, particularly Black jobseekers, James
21 formed a new organization: Aboriginal Blackman United, or ABU; and

22 WHEREAS, During the peak of the Great Recession in 2010, James organized
23 hundreds of unemployment Hunters Point residents, in coalition with community partners from
24 around the City and non-profit civil rights attorneys, to support the 2010 San Francisco Local
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1 Hiring Policy for Construction, which made local hiring a requirement on all city-funded public
2 works; and

3 WHEREAS, Not only was James the driving force on the ground to push local hiring
4 over the line, but he and ABU have been critical to the policy's success over the past 14
5 years. ABU now works with City Build, community-based organizations, and building trade
6 unions to recruit, train, and support the next generation of local hires. James also founded
7 ABU's GED Training and Scholarship Programs to make sure that high school completion is
8 not a barrier to economic opportunity; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition, James has been a lifelong advocate for violence prevention
10 and ABU's efforts to provide employment opportunities for the community is linked to James's
11 vision that "there's nothing that stops a bullet like a job."; and

12 WHEREAS, Every Thanksgiving, James and ABU distribute hundreds of turkeys to
13 disadvantaged families. During the holidays, ABU hosts a coat drive to help keep children of
14 low-income families warm throughout the winter; and

15 RESOLVED, In recognition of the very same location of the tragic shooting of his friend
16 outside the Bayview Opera House, as well as the longtime headquarters of ABU for many
17 years, it is proposed to commemoratively rename one block of Oakdale Avenue west of Third
18 Street to "James Richards Way"; and, be it,

19 FUTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Works is hereby directed to add
20 the honorary street name to its official list of Commemorative Street Names, in accordance
21 with Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq.

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