

1 [Urging Authorization for the Installation of a Yellow Brick Road in the Tenderloin]

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3 **Resolution urging the authorization of the installation of an enduring Yellow Brick**  
4 **Road on the sidewalks of 17 blocks within the Tenderloin District.**

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6 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin District is home to 3,500 youth and children; and

7 WHEREAS, There are 11 schools in the neighborhood with grade ranges from Pre-  
8 Kindergarten to 12th grade; including C5 Children's School, Harvey Milk Children's Center,  
9 Compass Children's Center, Glide Family Youth and Childcare Center, Woo Yee Childhood  
10 Development Center - Cadillac and Golden Gate, Cross Cultural Family Center, San  
11 Francisco City Academy, Tenderloin Community School, De Marillac Academy, Larkin Street  
12 Youth Services Academy; and

13 WHEREAS, The 2019 Point in Time Count found that the Tenderloin was home to  
14 3,656 homeless individuals, a number which constituted 46% of the city's homeless  
15 population, this concentration of unhoused residents who lack access to appropriate shelter or  
16 a designated place to go, has led to sidewalks being blocked by large encampments - forcing  
17 children, seniors, and people with disabilities to walk in the streets; and

18 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin has been treated as a traffic thoroughfare, moving high  
19 volumes of vehicles from other neighborhoods to the downtown business district; and

20 WHEREAS, The 2017 Vision Zero plan identified the Tenderloin neighborhood as a  
21 Community of Concern and part of the High Injury Network, and the Department of Public  
22 Health (DPH) has also identified the Tenderloin as a priority area for pedestrian safety  
23 improvements due to a concentration pedestrian injuries to seniors and people with  
24 disabilities; and

1           WHEREAS, 51% of the cities drug offenses are from the Tenderloin, and the  
2 Tenderloin District has a 4.2% higher violent crime rate than the rest of San Francisco; and

3           WHEREAS, The conditions on the streets of the Tenderloin have created a point of  
4 trauma and an environment conducive of toxic stress specifically for the children of the  
5 neighborhood - these adverse childhood experiences (ACES), have proven to lead to chronic  
6 health problems, mental illness and substance abuse in adulthood; and

7           WHEREAS, In 2008, a group of Latina mothers from La Voz as well as Tenderloin  
8 youth sought action and partnership in creating safe streets for children, and, along with a  
9 coalition of organizations, created an eleven-block sidewalk mural connecting schools,  
10 community center, parks, and youth program sites; this pilot program for the Yellow Brick  
11 Road lasted two years until ongoing maintenance issues led to it being removed; and

12           WHEREAS, The initial Yellow Brick Road pilot project came from and was owned by  
13 the community - parents surveyed children and other parents to establish the route,  
14 advocated at City Hall to get approvals and permits, held unifying rallies to establish the Safe  
15 Passage program, and held big volunteer events to paint the yellow brick road; and

16           WHEREAS, The Yellow Brick Road pilot program has demonstrated proof of concept  
17 as a visual tool for the TLCBD Safe Passage resident ambassadors (Corner Captains) to  
18 promote a culture of safety, building relationships and agreements with people selling drugs  
19 on the street to be respectful or move to a different location during periods when kids were  
20 present; and

21           WHEREAS, This also became a visual designation for the Tenderloin Station to treat  
22 the Yellow Brick Road route as a school zone, which encouraged more of a foot patrol  
23 centered community-oriented policing model; and

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1           WHEREAS, To this day, residents who grew up with the Yellow Brick Road recount  
2 joyful memories skipping from brick to brick, and its visual representation of neighborhood  
3 community, camaraderie and support; and

4           WHEREAS, This initial pilot program has continued as the Safe Passage Program run  
5 by the Tenderloin Community Benefit District and a coalition of mothers, youth, seniors,  
6 volunteers and service providers and still serves 400 children and 200 seniors on a daily  
7 basis, navigating areas of high drug activity, sidewalks blocked by encampments, and  
8 challenging traffic intersections; and

9           WHEREAS, The proposed route creates a network connecting schools, after school  
10 programs, community centers, youth program sites and parks; and

11           WHEREAS, The proposed Yellow Brick Road is to be made of a durable thermoplastic,  
12 commonly used in traffic markings and having a lifespan of five to seven years with little to no  
13 maintenance, eliminating the issues that caused the pilot project to be removed after two  
14 years; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the return of the  
16 Yellow Brick Road; and, be it

17           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Public  
18 Works Code, Section 786, Street (Major) Encroachment Permit, urges the approval of the  
19 installation of the aforementioned Yellow Brick Road on the sidewalk in the to be named  
20 locations; and, be it

21           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Planning  
22 Department and Department of Public Works to take all actions necessary to implement the  
23 intent of this Resolution.

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