

**File No.** 251270

**Committee Item No. 6**  
**Board Item No. \_\_\_\_\_**

## **COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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**Committee: Land Use and Transportation**  
**Board of Supervisors Meeting:**

**Date:** January 26, 2026  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## OTHER

**Prepared by:** John Carroll  
**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_

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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## **M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Carla Short, Director, Public Works

FROM: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: December 19, 2025

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

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The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Mahmood on December 16, 2025.

**File No. 251270**

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

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: [john.carroll@sfgov.org](mailto:john.carroll@sfgov.org).

cc:

Offices of Chair Melgar and Supervisor Mandelman  
David Steinberg, Public Works  
Ian Schneider, Public Works  
Jason Wong, Public Works

**From:** [Michael Nulty](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [tac\\_s\\_f@yahoo.com](mailto:tac_s_f@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Commemorative Street Name Designation - Eddy Street from Jones Street to Taylor Street - "Stephen Tennis Way"  
**Date:** Friday, January 23, 2026 9:23:57 AM

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January 23, 2026

Board of Supervisors  
City and County of San Francisco  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Attn: Supervisor Mahmood

**Re: Support for Resolution - Commemorative Street Name Designation - Eddy Street from Jones Street to Taylor Street - "Stephen Tennis Way"**

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, We are writing to express our strong support for the resolution to add the commemorative street name "Stephen Tennis Way" to the 200 block of Eddy Street, in recognition of Stephen Tennis's decades of service, stewardship, leadership, and community-building in the Tenderloin neighborhood.

The Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco represents a network of tenant organizations dedicated to advocating for affordable housing, tenant rights, and improved living conditions for low-income residents across the city. We have long worked alongside community leaders like Stephen Tennis, whose tireless efforts have directly benefited the residents we serve, particularly in the Tenderloin and surrounding areas.

Stephen Tennis exemplified the spirit of community service through his multifaceted roles over the years. As one of the first and longest-serving Corner Captains of Safe Passage, he ensured the safety and well-being of thousands of children navigating the streets of the Tenderloin, guiding them to school, home, and after-school programs with unwavering dedication. His stewardship of Boeddeker Park transformed it into a vital refuge for recreation, cultural gatherings, and community connection, fostering a sense of safety and belonging for residents and visitors alike.

In his capacity as a tenant leader with the Central City SRO Collaborative, Stephen championed policies that enhanced the quality of life for low-income residents,

including initiatives to clear Turk Street of parked cars, install brighter streetlights, remove high-speed traffic lanes, expand Safe Passage, strengthen rent control, support Vision Zero, and improve repair times for SRO elevators. Beyond these, Stephen served in various other capacities, helping others in his community through acts of kindness, advocacy, and mentorship. Notably, he was a Food Justice Leader, promoting access to nutritious food and addressing inequities in food distribution within the Tenderloin, inspiring residents to build healthier, more resilient communities.

Stephen's personal journey—from his service as a U.S. Merchant Marine during the Vietnam War era to his commitment to sobriety and transformation into a beacon of optimism and protectiveness—further underscores his profound impact. His chivalry, resilience, and belief in the potential for positive change touched countless lives, including those of tenants facing hardships. As he once reflected, his desire to ensure his ledger had entries in the “positive column” speaks to a life devoted to generosity and upliftment.

We believe that designating “Stephen Tennis Way” is a fitting tribute to a man whose legacy of service continues to inspire. This commemorative naming will honor his contributions while reminding future generations of the power of community leadership in building a more equitable San Francisco.

The Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt this resolution without delay. We stand ready to provide any additional information or testimony in support of this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Nulty  
Program Director  
Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco

***Michael Nulty***

P.O. Box 420782  
San Francisco, CA 94142-0782  
(415) 339-8327 - Direct  
(415) 339-8779 - Alliance for a Better District 6  
(415) 339-8683 - Central City Democrats  
(415) 937-1289 - North of Market Business Association  
(415) 820-1412 - Tenderloin Futures Collaborative  
<http://abd6.cfsites.org/>

## Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)  
*(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)*
- 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor"  inquires..."
- 5. City Attorney Request
- 6. Call File No.  from Committee.
- 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission
- Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- Yes
- No

*(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)*

Sponsor(s):

Mahmood

Subject:

Commemorative Street Name Designation – Eddy Street from Jones Street to Taylor Street – “Stephen Tennis Way”

Long Title or text listed:

Resolution adding the commemorative street name “Stephen Tennis Way” to the 200 block of Eddy Street, in recognition of Stephen Tennis’ s decades of service, stewardship, leadership, and community-building in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:  /s/ Bilal Mahmood