

1 [Naming the San Francisco City Hall Press Room “The Barbara A. Taylor Press Room”]

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3 **Resolution naming the San Francisco City Hall press room, in its current and any**
4 **future location, “The Barbara A. Taylor Press Room,” in honor of legendary reporter**
5 **Barbara Ann Taylor (1947 - 2020), whose significant contributions to journalism and**
6 **San Francisco civic life while serving as the KCBS City Hall bureau chief for more than**
7 **30 years have set the standard for integrity and professionalism.**

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9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco City Hall press room, currently located in Room 247
10 and unnamed, serves as the home base for reporters and visiting journalists covering San
11 Francisco civic matters, policy, and politics; and

12 WHEREAS, Barbara Ann Taylor served as San Francisco City Hall bureau chief for
13 KCBS Radio for more than 30 years, covering City Hall politics across seven different mayoral
14 administrations, until her retirement in 2015, which earned her the mantel of “Dean of the City
15 Hall Press Corps”; and

16 WHEREAS, Barbara Taylor leveraged her experience as a political reporter to also co-
17 write the Insider column and opinion pieces for the Hearst-owned San Francisco Examiner
18 and to serve as on-air host for the televised weekly City Desk News; and

19 WHEREAS, Barbara Taylor adeptly and incisively covered the biggest news stories of
20 her time with a skilled professionalism that set the standard for countless journalists, including
21 the shocking assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk and the
22 Jonestown massacre, which changed the course of politics in San Francisco; the Loma Prieta
23 earthquake, the largest natural disaster to strike the City in over 80 years; and San
24 Francisco’s groundbreaking and revolutionary issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex
25 couples, paving the way for legalizing gay marriage; and

1 WHEREAS, Utilizing her fearlessness, tenacity, street smarts and gut instincts,
2 Barbara Taylor ferreted out stories and cut through the codswallop, providing her listeners
3 with news stories that were relevant, accurate, balanced and timely, which ultimately earned
4 her numerous awards for her news coverage, both as an individual reporter and as a member
5 of a team unit, among them the Peabody and Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University awards
6 and six national Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) “Edward R. Murrow”
7 awards for overall excellence; and

8 WHEREAS, At once empathetic and hard-hitting in her beat reporting, Barbara Taylor
9 threaded her stories with human interest, fairness and profound integrity, earning the respect
10 of her subjects and colleagues alike, and becoming a role model and subject matter expert
11 even to her competitors wise enough to watch and learn from the best in the business; and

12 WHEREAS, Barbara Taylor, for a time accompanied by her canine companion, Tanner,
13 held court in her City Hall press room office and recording studio, hosting a steady stream of
14 elected officials, legislative aides, City Hall flaks, lobbyists, activists, political gadflies and
15 bureaucrats eager to get their say on the stories she was working on; and

16 WHEREAS, When politicians tried to avoid being peppered with pointed questions or
17 her dogged inquiries, Barbara Taylor knew where to track them down, lying in wait with
18 microphone in hand by their parked car, on a back staircase, or at their favorite after-hours (or
19 lunchtime) watering hole; and

20 WHEREAS, A consummate beat reporter, Barbara Taylor knew when to hold tight to
21 information given to her in confidence, when to use it for background and when to roll it out,
22 earning her the trust of valuable sources, which ultimately benefitted her listeners, viewers
23 and readers, who came to depend on her ability to competently and confidently report the
24 news with context and authority, often in real time; and

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1 WHEREAS, After diligently reporting on the work and words of seven mayors and
2 dozens of supervisors, as well as covering tens of thousands of hours of public meetings,
3 thousands of press conferences and hundreds of public protests, Barbara Taylor had one of
4 the longest tenures of any individual consistently working under the City Hall dome, recording
5 history as it unfolded; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
7 does hereby name the San Francisco City Hall press room, in its current and any future
8 location, “The Barbara A. Taylor Press Room”, in honor of legendary reporter Barbara Ann
9 Taylor (1947 - 2020), whose significant contributions to journalism and San Francisco civic life
10 while serving as the KCBS City Hall bureau chief for more than 30 years have set the
11 standard for integrity and professionalism.

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