

1 [Change the name of 16th Street between Pond Street and Prosper Street in the Castro to
2 José Sarria Court]

3 **Resolution changing the name of 16th Street between Pond Street and Prosper Street**
4 **in the Castro to “José Sarria Court,” in recognition of José Sarria, who is one of the**
5 **most heroic, courageous, and colorful and creative figures in San Francisco's history.**
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8 WHEREAS, in 1961 José Sarria ran for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors as the
9 first openly gay candidate to run for public office in the world and received 5600 votes,
10 establishing San Francisco in the forefront of the movement for Gay and Lesbian Equality
11 and political representation; and,

12 WHEREAS, in the face of McCarthyism and the absence of any legal protections
13 for Gays, Lesbians or Transgenders José Sarria was a beacon of openness and pride who
14 almost single-handedly nurtured, protected and guided San Francisco's emerging Gay
15 Community; and

16 WHEREAS, José Sarria worked at the Black Cat bar which functioned as a
17 community center, providing news and information, legal advice and assistance and
18 emotional support to hundreds of individuals who were facing discrimination and persecution
19 because they were Gay; and

20 WHEREAS, José Sarria in 1965 founded what has become the International
21 Imperial Court System in the United States, Canada and Mexico, which was the first
22 institution within San Francisco's Gay and Lesbian Community organizing leaders, events and
23 fund-raising that established models for activism that led later to the founding of numerous
24 AIDS organizations, raised millions for AIDS organizations and other LGBT charities and
25 endures today;

1 WHEREAS, Empress José I declared herself “the Widow Norton” of famed San
2 Francisco character Emperor Jose Norton carrying his memory and exploits forward to
3 generations of San Franciscans and holds an annual pilgrimage to his grave following the
4 San Francisco Imperial Court's Coronation each year; and

5 WHEREAS, José Sarria was among the first to back Harvey Milk in his campaign
6 for San Francisco Supervisor; and,

7 WHEREAS, The only address on 16th Street between Pond Street and Prosper
8 Street is the Harvey Milk Branch Public Library; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That consistent with San Francisco Public Works Code Section 701,
10 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors changes the name of 16th Street between Pond
11 Street and Prosper Street in the Castro to “José Sarria Court,” in recognition of his courage
12 and leadership to the LGBT community and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors request the
14 Director of the Department of Parking and Traffic to erect street signs indicating both the new
15 and former name of the street, with the new name “José Sarria Court” in large letters, and the
16 old name in “16th Street” in smaller letters above or beneath the new name; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That both of the street names shall remain posted on
18 street signs for five years, and then the street signs shall be replaced with signs indicating
19 only the new street name, “José Sarria Court.”
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