

1 [Naming the Waller Street Stairway as Adah's Stairway]

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3 **Ordinance: 1) establishing the name of the Waller Street stairway at Waller and**  
4 **Broderick Streets and connecting to Buena Vista Park as "Adah's Stairway," in**  
5 **recognition of Adah Bakalinsky, author of the book *Stairway Walks in San Francisco*; 2)**  
6 **commemorating this location under Public Works Code Sections 789 et seq., the**  
7 **Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance; 3) accepting a plaque and its installation in**  
8 **honor of Ms. Bakalinsky as a gift to the City; 4) waiving permit and inspection fees for**  
9 **plaque installation; and 5) directing official acts in furtherance of this Ordinance.**

10 NOTE: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;  
11 deletions are ~~*strike-through italics Times New Roman*~~.  
12 Board amendment additions are double-underlined;  
Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

13 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

14 Section 1. Findings.

15 (a) In 1984, Adah Bakalinsky published the first edition of her book *Stairway Walks in*  
16 *San Francisco*, bringing attention to the more than 350 public stairways in San Francisco that  
17 are listed in the first book, each with its own unique personality. Adah has walked all of them.  
18 The *New York Times* said of her book: ". . . a fascinating trek through the sidewalk staircases  
19 hidden around the city." Paul McHugh, a Bay Area novelist and former *San Francisco*  
20 *Chronicle* journalist, wrote: "Bakalinsky . . . is the Ferdinand Magellan, the Sir Francis Drake,  
21 the Vasco da Gama of San Francisco stairways". There are now 670 public stairways that  
22 have been created in the City and are available for exploration and learning about the unique  
23 neighborhoods of San Francisco.

24 (b) In May 2004, in celebration of the 5th edition and 20th anniversary of Ms.  
25 Bakalinsky's book, former Mayor Newsom recognized Adah Bakalinsky, whose book has

1 turned her into a City institution and officially dedicated a day to San Francisco's stairways.  
2 This day encompassed six free guided stairway walks that took place simultaneously  
3 throughout San Francisco neighborhoods.

4 (c) According to the non-profit organization, San Francisco Beautiful: "Since the 1980s,  
5 Adah has played a pivotal role in stairway improvement projects. Her contagious enthusiasm  
6 and heartfelt encouragement have aided volunteers in formulating plans for stairway creation  
7 and accompanying garden improvements. Adah has done much to make stairway gardens a  
8 focal point for neighborhood activities. With her 'can do' spirit, whole neighborhoods have  
9 come out of their secluded homes and formed work parties to beautify these public right of  
10 ways."

11 (d) Local residents and tourists continue to use this book, now in its 7th revised edition  
12 and almost 30 years old. Adah's book serves as an inspiration to others to work together to  
13 beautify their neighborhood stairways and to write similar books in other cities.

14 (e) *Stairway Walks in San Francisco* continues to promote tourism of San Francisco's  
15 unique neighborhoods and encourages healthy communities by inspiring people to experience  
16 these outdoor open spaces, walk, and explore City neighborhoods.

17 (f) The Waller Street stairway at Waller and Broderick Streets that connects to Buena  
18 Vista Park would be an appropriate stairway to name in honor Ms. Bakalinsky and her  
19 contribution to San Francisco.

20 (g) The Department of Public Works, on behalf of the City, has complied with the  
21 California Streets and Highway Code Section 970.5 and properly posted the street area  
22 subject to this street name establishment for the specified time period.

23 Section 2. Naming the Waller Street Stairway as Adah's Stairway.

24 Consistent with the San Francisco Public Works Code, California Streets and  
25 Highways Code Sections 970.5, 971, and 5026, and California Government Code Section

1 34091.1, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby establishes the name of the Waller  
2 Street stairway at Waller and Broderick Streets connecting to Buena Vista Park as “Adah’s  
3 Stairway” in recognition of Ms. Bakalinsky, her curiosity and exploration of San Francisco  
4 through its neighborhoods and connecting stairways, and her ability to share the adventure  
5 and exploration of stairways with all who come to San Francisco.

6 Section 3. Commemoration of Adah's Stairway.

7 The Board of Supervisors declares its intent to commemorate the abovementioned  
8 stairway in accordance with Public Works Code Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative  
9 Street Plaque Ordinance, in honor of Adah Bakalinsky.

10 Section 4. Gift Acceptance.

11 The Board of Supervisors accepts a commemorative plaque in honor of Ms. Bakalinsky  
12 and its installation as a gift to the City and County of San Francisco.

13 Section 5. Fee Waiver.

14 Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Public Works Code, the Board of  
15 Supervisors hereby waives all permit and inspection fees associated with the installation of  
16 the commemorative plaque.

17 Section 6. Requested Official Actions.

18 (a) The San Francisco Board of Supervisors requests the Department of Public Works,  
19 if feasible, to install a sign(s) identifying this stairway as “Adah’s Stairway.”

20 (b) The Board of Supervisors directs the Department of Public Works to add this  
21 stairway to the Official City Map of commemorative sites.

22 (c) The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to promptly forward a copy  
23 of this Ordinance to the County Surveyor in accordance with California Streets and Highways  
24 Code Section 5026.

1           Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective 30 days from the  
2 date of passage.

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4 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
5 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

6 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
7       John D. Malamut  
8       Deputy City Attorney