

1 [Commemorative Plaques - San Francisco Little Italy Honor Walk]

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3 **Resolution authorizing the placement of commemorative plaques or statuary at two**
4 **locations within the North Beach neighborhood, historically known as “Little Italy,” at**
5 **the sidewalk near the northwest corner of the intersection between Stockton Street and**
6 **Union Street, and the southwest corner of the intersection between Stockton Street and**
7 **Filbert Street, to celebrate prominent figures in the Italian American community; and**
8 **directing the Department of Public Works to carry out the installation of the**
9 **forementioned plaques or statuary.**

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11 WHEREAS, California has always been a popular immigrant gateway for people
12 seeking new opportunities and witnessed the greatest influx of people from across the world
13 since the discovery of gold; and

14 WHEREAS, Due to its access to the Pacific Coast, the port of San Francisco, once
15 known as Yerba Buena, became a prominent access point for those traveling by water into
16 the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, Since the mid-19th century, San Francisco received an early influx of
18 Italian immigrants from Italy, including Tuscany, Piedmont, Liguria, and Sicily; and

19 WHEREAS, These immigrants, spanning a diverse background from fishery and
20 miners to entrepreneurs, bankers, and artists, sought a better life for themselves and their
21 families on the Pacific West Coast of the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, By 1860, the largest number of Italian immigrants in the United States
23 lived in California and by 1890 there were more Italian immigrants on the Pacific Coast than in
24 New England; and

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1 WHEREAS, The collective contributions and expansion of the Italian community
2 gradually introduced Italian heritage and popular culture into mainstream society, including
3 Italian Opera in 1851 and Italian Jesuit who founded the University of San Francisco in 1856,
4 and has helped shaped the growth of the City of San Francisco, particularly with the
5 establishment of the historic Italian neighborhood of North Beach; and

6 WHEREAS, By 1859, the Italian enclave in San Francisco and Northern California
7 grew so large that it established its own Italian language newspaper, “La Voce del Popolo”,
8 and organized the first Columbus Day Parade to celebrate Italian pride on October 19, 1869;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, On October 2, 2023, under the guidance of the General Consulate of Italy,
11 a coalition of Italian and Italian American associations came together to establish the San
12 Francisco Little Italy Honor Walk Project; and

13 WHEREAS, The mission of the organization is to “celebrate, remember, promote, and
14 enhance the Italian American community, its history, culture, and social development through
15 educational, recreational and charitable public programs and projects and to develop;” and

16 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Little Italy Honor Walk will be a comprehensive and
17 immersive experience that combines the physical location of commemorative plaques with
18 exhibitions, conferences, and regular community conversation events for residents and
19 visitors to explore the historic neighborhood and learn about Italian heritage in San Francisco;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The main path of the Honor Walk will begin at Washington Square Park
22 and expand along Columbus Street from Joe DiMaggio Playground to Jackson Street; and

23 WHEREAS, The Honor Walk will initiate the project with the installation of two plaques
24 honoring George Moscone and Mariana Bertola, two Italian American prominent figures that
25 had lasting impact in history of San Francisco and California; and

1 WHEREAS, George Moscone was a son of Italian immigrants from Piedmont and
2 Liguria, Italy, and grew up in the enclave of San Francisco’s Marina District; and

3 WHEREAS, Moscone was an attorney and Democratic politician who became the 37th
4 mayor of San Francisco and was widely known as “The People’s Mayor”, because of his
5 embrace of diversity in San Francisco; and

6 WHEREAS, Moscone was the first mayor who advocated for the opening City Hall to
7 member of the public and deliberately expanding the number of appointments of women, gay
8 people, and racial minorities to city commissions and advisory boards; and

9 WHEREAS, Mariana Bertola was born in Pacheco, California, the daughter of Italian
10 immigrant parents, Antonio Bertola and Atherine DeVoto Bertola; and

11 WHEREAS, Bertola graduated from Cooper Medical College at Stanford University
12 in 1899 and was a prominent member of the American Medical Association and the San
13 Francisco County Medical Society; and

14 WHEREAS, As a prominent obstetrician, Bertola believed in the importance of women
15 and children’s welfare and championed the “California Plan”, which called for the
16 establishment of a maternity and children’s ward at every county hospital in California; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Public Works Code,
19 Sections 789, et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, authorizes the
20 placement of plaques on the sidewalk near the northwest corner of the intersection between
21 Stockton Street and Union Street, and the southwest corner of the intersection between
22 Stockton Street and Filbert Street; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to take all
24 actions necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution, including approval of the
25 installation of the aforementioned plaques; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED That the Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to add
2 aforementioned plaques at the aforementioned location to the City’s official list of
3 commemorative sites effective immediately from the date of passage of this Resolution.

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