

File No. 231176

Committee Item No. 1

Board Item No. _____

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Land Use and Transportation

Date: February 5, 2024

Board of Supervisors Meeting:

Date: _____

Cmte Board

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| ☐ | ☐ | Ordinance |
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| ☒ | ☐ | <u>Hearing Notice and Proof of Posting – January 26, 2024</u> |
| ☒ | ☐ | <u>Referral FYI – November 15, 2023</u> |
| ☐ | ☐ | _____ |
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Prepared by: John Carroll

Date: February 1, 2024

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

1 [Commemorative Street Name Designation - "Veterans Alley" - 0 Block of Shannon Street]

2
3 **Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Veterans Alley" to the 0 Block of**
4 **Shannon Street in recognition of The San Francisco Veterans Mural Project (known**
5 **colloquially as "Veterans Alley"), a community-based mural project located in the**
6 **Tenderloin.**

7
8 WHEREAS, Veterans Alley was founded in October 2011 by two U.S military veterans,
9 Navy Veteran Amos Gregory (aka LowKeyRider1) and USMC Veteran Gilbert Lovato (aka
10 Gabriel, Archangel of the Bay) as a grassroots community project; and

11 WHEREAS, Veterans Alley consists of murals covering an entire block of public-facing
12 alley walls, where U.S. military veterans, their supporters and the community-at-large paint
13 their own stories about the true reality of war and the military experience; and

14 WHEREAS, Veterans Alley was created to give voice to the veteran population, which
15 has long been neglected and suffers due to inadequate care and support; and

16 WHEREAS, The objective of the project is to create awareness, understanding and
17 transformation within society centered around the universal concept of peace and humanity;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Veterans Alley has become a place where veterans gather around the
20 creation of the art of healing; and

21 WHEREAS, Veterans Alley has become a place for non-veteran Tenderloin residents,
22 both housed and unhoused, to gather around art and healing and to seek and connect with
23 services; and

24 WHEREAS, Veterans Alley has become a destination that inspires and educates both
25 tourists and San Franciscans on the experience of veterans and calls for peace; and

1 WHEREAS, Veterans Alley recognizes that the first victims of war are children and
2 through its Syrian Refugee Children's Mural Project has worked directly with Syrian children
3 affected by the Syrian Civil War to create art in schools and community centers in Antakya,
4 and Istanbul Turkey; and

5 WHEREAS, Veterans Alley artists have created artwork with San Francisco school-
6 aged children and young adults, both housed and unhoused, in school and after school
7 settings; and

8 WHEREAS, Veterans Alley has created a sister city mural project, The Deported
9 Veterans Mural Project, located in Tijuana, Mexico on the U.S.-Mexico border fence, which
10 works directly with deported U.S. military veterans advocating for their repatriation to the
11 United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Veterans Alley represents the first instance where veterans, through public
13 artwork, have created a constant dialogue with the community by highlighting the realities of
14 war and the military experience to teach society how to never use violence to resolve conflicts
15 ever again; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That in order to celebrate the legacy and contributions of The San
17 Francisco Veterans Mural Project, there shall be an honorary naming of "Veterans Alley" on
18 Shannon Street between Geary Street and O'Farrell Street; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Works is directed to add the
20 honorary street name to its official list of Commemorative Street Names in accordance with
21 Public Works Code, Section 789, et seq.

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Land Use and Transportation Committee of the City and County of San Francisco will hold a public hearing to consider the following hearing matter and said public hearing will be held as follows, at which time all interested parties may attend and be heard:

Date: Monday, February 5, 2024

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Legislative Chamber, Room 250, located at City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco. CA 94102

Subject: **File No. 231176.** Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Veterans Alley" to the 0 Block of Shannon Street in recognition of The San Francisco Veterans Mural Project (known colloquially as "Veterans Alley"), a community-based mural project located in the Tenderloin.

In accordance with Administrative Code, Section 67.7-1, persons who are unable to attend the hearing on this matter may submit written comments prior to the time the hearing begins. These comments will be added to the official public record in this matter and shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Supervisors. Written comments should be addressed to Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA, 94102 or sent via email (bos@sfgov.org). Information relating to this matter is available with the Office of the Clerk of the Board or the Board of Supervisors' Legislative Research Center (<https://sfbos.org/legislative-research-center-lrc>). Agenda information relating to this matter will be available for public review on Friday, February 2, 2024.

For any questions about this hearing, please contact the Assistant Clerk for the Land Use and Transportation Committee:

John Carroll (john.carroll@sfgov.org) ~ (415) 554-4445)


f Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco

jec:bjj:ams

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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PROOF OF POSTING

Legislative File No. (BOS File No. 231176) Commemorative Street Name
Designation - "Veterans Alley" - 0 Block of Shannon Street

Description of Items:

Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Veterans Alley" to the 0 Block of Shannon Street in recognition of The San Francisco Veterans Mural Project (known colloquially as "Veterans Alley"), a community-based mural project located in the Tenderloin.

WE, T. WELDETENSAC & J. ZHOU, an employee of the City and County of San Francisco, posted the above-described document(s) along the street(s) to be affected at least ten (10) days in advance of the hearing (pursuant to Public Works Code Sec. 789, et seq.):

Date: 01-25-2024

Time: 2:15 pm

Location: SHANNON ST BETWEEN O'FARRELL & GEARY ST

Signature:  

Instructions: Upon completion, original must be filed in the above referenced file.

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Carla Short, Director, Public Works
Jeffrey Tumlin, Executive Director, Municipal Transportation Agency

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

DATE: November 15, 2023

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Preston on November 7, 2023.

File No. 231176

Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Veterans Alley" to the 0 Block of Shannon Street in recognition of The San Francisco Veterans Mural Project (known colloquially as "Veterans Alley"), a community-based mural project located in the Tenderloin.

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.

cc:
Offices of Chair Melgar and Supervisor Preston
David Steinberg, Public Works
Ian Schneider, Public Works
John Thomas, Public Works
Lena Liu, Public Works
Kate Breen, Municipal Transportation Agency
Janet Martinsen, Municipal Transportation Agency
Joel Ramos, Municipal Transportation Agency

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: No to adding a name to Shannon St., Feb. 5 Committee Hearing
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 1:48:20 PM

Good afternoon John,

Please see below for communication for the Land Use and Transportation Committee members.

Sincerely,

Joe Adkins
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 554-5184 | Fax: (415) 554-5163
board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

From: RH <oxygeneditions@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 3:13 PM
To: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: No to adding a name to Shannon St., Feb. 5 Committee Hearing

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

535 Geary St., Apt. 1010
San Francisco, CA 94102
January 31, 2024

RE: File No. 231176 – Request to add a name to the 0 block of Shannon St.
We're Against It!!

Dear Angela Calvillo:

Thank you for reading and passing along the following letter to the Land Use and Transportation Committee . . .

On Monday, January 29 the neighborhood discovered that Amos Gregory was going to be given a public hearing on his move to officially add the name “Veterans Alley” to the south block of Shannon Street between O’Farrell and Geary Streets. He long ago put up his own street sign at the southeast corner of the block, but that’s almost the last new art to appear at this location. All of the neighbors I’ve talked to oppose adding his organization’s name to the street, and he is certainly not deserving of the honor.

The mural is neither notable nor active. Certainly 90% of the artwork on parts of both sides of the block is old, worn, and unrenewed. Likewise the word "RECOVER" painted on the street at the last Saturday afternoon street closure soon went from bright yellow to dingy semi-legibility on the street pavement, adding to the trashy look of the block that the city has to sweep every couple of weeks or so. The mural work runs a little over half the block going north from the southeast corner; then stops and continues on the west side of the street up to the green line of the establishment at 555 Geary.

Five or more years ago, there were some lively occasions among the mural painters; but the wave broke and flowed away. Now a couple new people may be seen working a bit once every few weeks or months. A slow walk up and down the block today shows an actual neighborhood resident that the limited amount of good work in the past is almost all gone and little of any quality has come to replace it. Probably the most recent panel has a bright yellow light bulb under the motto "Reinvention is Constant" ascribed to Peter Maro (or Miro) in 7-22.

I don't think anything else is dated and precious few are ascribed to any artist anymore, though Mr. Gregory's name appears several times. A mediocre "artist," indeed, but a diligent hustler. One who claimed to have worked for him told me he often doesn't pay the people he hires to do the design and painting. He lives in the Mission with a wife and child, not downtown, and seems to live a pretty good life, boosting his mural project online, doing a lot of political legwork downtown, and collecting lucrative grants, or so the story goes. The Mission District itself has many beautiful murals—something he is unable to compete with, so he came to work downtown, much to downtown's detriment. There's something very phony about his operation.

Some years ago, Mr. Gregory was preparing to start painting on the side of our building, when Ms. Hallinan, the owner, happened to be present inside. She went out and asked him what he was doing. He told her that the owner gave him permission to paint the wall. She informed him that she was the owner and that he did not have permission and asked why he was saying that he did. He was unable to come up with any kind of answer and has not attempted again to paint on the building we live in.

He did, however, paint over the east wall and lower half of the large eastern windows at 555 Geary Street across Shannon, formerly the Olympic Café, a restaurant of long standing, and now The Bottle Club, a nice high-ceilinged bar full of good cheer and a continuing tradition of good live music at that location. Once I was leaving 535 Geary and stopped to approach and watch a discussion going on between Louie Karas, owner of the Olympic Café, and Mr. Gregory. Louie was telling Amos he had to take the paint off the windows because it blocked the sunlight from his customers. I stood there listening for quite a while; Mr. Gregory never said anything in response, just stood still with an immobile smile on his face.

He never did remove the paint, but when the new owners of the business asked him to do it (or perhaps said they were going to), the story one of them gave me shortly after was that Gregory refused and stormed off saying, "I hope you have a good lawyer!"

I've complained to him a few times about the unwelcome noise at his street closure events once or twice a year (he said he wants to do them four times a year if he gets the street name changed). I've

urged him to get better music and start getting the neighborhood itself involved by lobbying the people who live and work on and around this street that he wants to own a piece of and profit off. We hear that his nonprofit is very lucrative for him, and that's fine with me, but a few years ago, he emailed me and told me to "stop the hate," by which he meant my occasional criticism and suggestions. He was certainly labeling and twisting the truth. Later, he critiqued me in passing without me saying anything, and threatened, "You're finished, Richard." There are overtones to that, but he doesn't really seem to be an underworld kind of guy, just a wrong number. Later on, in front of Dean Preston and two other pairs of people in Shannon Street one afternoon, he exchanged hellos, then turned to the pair on his right to say about me, "He's a hater." I called him on it: "Is that what you're doing now, you're slandering me?!" Of course he had no answer, other than to qualify the energy of my righteous anger by saying, "See? There it is." I don't think Dean bought it; he knows me from years of working together at a Tenderloin nonprofit.

This is the kind of person who wants the city to honor him with a street name. However, his lack of achievement and antisocial activity clearly show that he is unworthy of such a distinction.

Can anyone actually tell me what the following unsigned words on the west wall are saying or what kind of attitude they indicate?

Stop . . . Plant . . . That U Don't Care
UR Feet
This is where
I allow our
Minds to
Meet . . . Look
Toward the
Street
Do
U
See . . . (Go to top right for last line)

A few years ago I spoke with him now and then, and once invited him and a few of his student or young professional painters up for a visit in my apartment. It was all very friendly; I told a painter she could wash her hands if she needed to, and Amos and I played a few games of chess, then a few more on a second visit he made by himself. Something about it didn't ring true, however.

We've seen people who work for him (he doesn't seem to do much actual painting or design) come and go. One told me about his mediocre classes and lectures.

I walk Shannon Street every day. I see a little, very occasional work on the mural, which is much smaller than when it began. At least half of Shannon St. does not let him paint on their walls, which are better for it.

At least he knows that the buildings at the north end of the block and the big church at the south end don't want his presence, and some of us quietly wish he would just go back home to the Mission

and stop causing problems downtown.

Very truly yours,

Richard Hack
535 Geary St., Apt. 1010
San Francisco 94102
(415) 776-9681

cc: Various

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):

Supervisors Preston; Walton, Dorsey, Safai

Subject:

Commemorative Street Name Designation - "Veterans Alley" - 0 Block of Shannon Street

Long Title or text listed:

Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Veterans Alley" to the 0 Block of Shannon Street in recognition of The San Francisco Veterans Mural Project (known colloquially as "Veterans Alley"), a community-based mural project located in the Tenderloin.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: