

1 [Opposing Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 65 - Renaming the Western Span of the San  
2 Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge the Willie L. Brown, Jr., Bridge]

3 **Resolution opposing Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 65 to rename the western**  
4 **span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge the Willie L. Brown, Jr., Bridge.**

5  
6 WHEREAS, Willie L. Brown, Jr. served two terms as the 41st Mayor of the City and  
7 County of San Francisco, from January 8, 1996 to January 8, 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Brown also served in the California State Assembly from 1965 to  
9 1995, and was the longest serving Speaker of the California State Assembly from 1980 to  
10 1995; and

11 WHEREAS, Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 65 (ACR-65), on file with the Clerk of  
12 the Board of Supervisors in File No. \_\_\_\_\_, which is hereby declared to be a part of this  
13 resolution as if set forth fully herein, would rename the Western span of the San Francisco-  
14 Oakland Bay Bridge as the Willie L. Brown, Jr. Bridge; and

15 WHEREAS, The California Senate Transportation and Housing Committee has  
16 adopted policy regarding the naming of state highways or structures; and

17 WHERAS, The staff analysis of ACR-65 by the Senate Transportation and Housing  
18 Committee (hereafter referred to as “the committee”) found that the “resolution conflicts with  
19 four of the seven provisions of the committee’s long-standing policy on highway designations;”  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The committee’s policy states that “the person being honored must be  
22 deceased,” but Willie L. Brown, Jr. is alive; and

23 WHEREAS, The committee’s policy states that “the author or co-author of the measure  
24 must represent the district in which the facility is located,” but neither Senator Mark Leno nor  
25 Assemblymember Tom Ammiano—who represent the Senate and Assembly District,

1 respectively, in which the Western span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge is  
2 located—are authors or co-authors of ACR-65; and

3 WHEREAS, The committee’s policy states that “the proposed designation must reflect  
4 a community consensus and be without local opposition,” but there is significant opposition  
5 among San Franciscans to renaming the Western span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay  
6 Bridge for Mr. Brown; and

7 WHEREAS, The committee analysis reported that the committee received numerous  
8 letters and emails in opposition to ACR-65; and

9 WHEREAS, Both the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *San Francisco Bay Guardian*  
10 newspapers have published editorials opposing renaming the bridge for Mr. Brown; and

11 WHEREAS, On September 11, 2013, an editorial from the San Francisco Chronicle  
12 stated that the letters to the editor they have received overwhelmingly oppose renaming the  
13 bridge for Mr. Brown, and only a single letter to the editor supports the proposal; and

14 WHEREAS, Three former presidents of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors—  
15 Quentin L. Kopp, Matt Gonzalez, and Aaron Peskin—submitted a letter to Senate President  
16 Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg expressing their opposition to renaming the bridge for Mr. Brown;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, A petition, hosted on the website change.org, urging that the San  
19 Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge be renamed for “Emperor” Joshua Abraham Norton has  
20 received over 3,700 signatures; and

21 WHEREAS, The committee’s policy states that “the proposed designation may not  
22 supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good faith effort  
23 has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation;” and

24  
25

1           WHEREAS, The committee’s analysis states that “Caltrans records show that the  
2 entire San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge was unofficially renamed for San Francisco Mayor  
3 James "Sunny Jim" Rolph;” and

4           WHEREAS, On August 14, 2013, Leah Garchik published a column in the *San*  
5 *Francisco Chronicle* in which she wrote that Mr. Brown stated “that he isn't interested in the  
6 half-a-bridge honor. He's in favor, he said, of naming the whole thing after Emperor Norton,  
7 who 141 years ago had proposed such a span;” and

8           WHEREAS, Resolution 780-04 passed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisor  
9 decreed that “future additions to the San Francisco Bay Bridge be designated ‘The Emperor  
10 Norton Bridge’;” and

11           WHEREAS, The timing of the recent consideration of ACR-65, coming days after the  
12 opening of the new Eastern span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, is creating  
13 confusion among the public about which span of the bridge is being considered for renaming;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, ACR-65 has been rushed through the legislative process by suspending  
16 Joint Rules 61.a.12 and 62.a, which has limited opportunities for the public to review and  
17 comment on the proposed renaming of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge; now,  
18 therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
20 urges the California State Senate to oppose Assembly Concurrent Resolution 65 to rename  
21 the Western span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge the Willie L. Brown, Jr. Bridge;  
22 and, be it

23           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
24 to transmit a copy of this resolution to the California State Assembly and Senate.  
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