

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: John Rahaim, Director, Planning Department
Sheryl Evans Davis, Director, Human Rights Commission
Todd Rufo, Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Jonas Ionin, Commission Secretary, Historic Preservation Commission
Olson Lee, Director, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
Barbara A. Garcia, Director, Department of Public Health
Jeff Kositsky, Director, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing
Shireen McSpadden, Executive Director, Aging and Adult Services Commission
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Small Business Commission
Tom DeCaigny, Director of Cultural Affairs, Arts Commission
Susan Pontious, Director of Public Art Program, Arts Commission
Trent Rhorer, Executive Director, Human Services Agency
Maria Su, Director, Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
Nadia Sesay, Interim Executive Director, Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure
Tom Hui, Director, Department of Building Inspection
Mohammed Nuru, Director, Public Works
Jocelyn Kane, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission
Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, Recreation and Parks Department

FROM:  Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director
Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: May 3, 2017

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following **substitute** legislation, introduced by Supervisor Kim on April 25, 2017:

File No. 170131-2

Resolution establishing the Compton's Transgender Cultural District with the intent of commemorating historical sites, preserving existing spaces, and planning for vibrant communities that are Transgender, Gender-variant, Intersex, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual affirming.

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: alisa.somera@sfgov.org.

- c: Scott Sanchez, Planning Department / Historic Preservation Commission
- Lisa Gibson, Planning Department / Historic Preservation Commission
- AnMarie Rodgers, Planning Department / Historic Preservation Commission
- Aaron Starr, Planning Department
- Joy Navarrete, Planning Department / Historic Preservation Commission
- Jeanie Poling, Planning Department
- Ken Rich, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
- Lisa Pagan, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
- John Rahaim, Historic Preservation Commission
- Tim Frye, Historic Preservation Commission
- Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, Historic Preservation Commission
- Georgia Powell, Historic Preservation Commission
- Eugene Flannery, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
- Kate Hartley, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
- Greg Wagner, Department of Public Health
- Colleen Chawla, Department of Public Health
- Bridget Badasow, Aging and Adult Services Commission
- Menaka Mahajan, Small Business Commission
- Rebekah Krell, Arts Commission
- Sharon Page Ritchie, Arts Commission
- Krista Ballard, Human Services Agency
- William Strawn, Department of Building Inspection
- Carolyn Jayin, Department of Building Inspection
- Frank Lee, Public Works
- John Thomas, Public Works
- Lena Liu, Public Works
- Crystal Stewart, Entertainment Commission
- Sarah Madland, Recreation and Parks Department

1 [Establishment of Compton's Transgender Cultural District]

2
3 **Resolution establishing the Compton's Transgender Cultural District with the**
4 **intent of commemorating historical sites, preserving existing spaces, and**
5 **planning for vibrant communities that are Transgender, Gender-variant, Intersex,**
6 **Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual affirming.**

7
8 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors intends to establish the Compton's
9 Transgender Cultural District ("District"), whose boundaries are defined as the north
10 side of Market Street between Taylor Street and Jones Street, to the south side of Ellis
11 Street between Mason Street and Taylor Street, and the north side of Ellis Street
12 between Taylor Street and Jones Street as well as the 6th Street corridor (on both
13 sides) between Market Street and Howard Street; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Park Service LGBTQ Initiative recognized multiple
15 sites in the Compton's Transgender Cultural District as having significant historical
16 value including 101 Taylor, the site of the Compton's Cafeteria Riots in August 1966,
17 "one of the earliest examples of Transgender push back against police repression," and
18 marking the beginning of a nationwide Transgender, Gender-variant, Intersex, Lesbian,
19 Gay, and Bisexual (TGILGB) civil rights movement; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2015, the Planning Department issued the LGBTQ Historic
21 Context Statement ("Statement") describing and uncovering the rich and multi-layered
22 TGILGB history of the Tenderloin and Mid-Market area; and

23 WHEREAS, The Statement described the first Gay affirming march in San
24 Francisco, known as Gay Freedom Day Parade, walked down Polk Street, in 1970, and
25

1 the latest incarnation, the San Francisco Pride Celebration, currently marches down
2 Market Street, through parts of the District; and

3 WHEREAS, The Statement outlined the rich history of the Tenderloin and Mid-
4 Market area including having been the site of some of the first lectures on
5 homosexuality by anarchist Emma Goldman in 1899 at 117 Turk Street; the first and
6 largest public gathering of Lesbians at the Hotel Whitcomb at 1231 Market Street; and
7 the first public discussion on parenting for both gay men and lesbians at Glide Memorial
8 Church at 441 Ellis Street in 1966; and

9 WHEREAS, The TGILGB community has frequently relied on night-life spaces as
10 the centers of community-building and the Tenderloin and Mid-Market area have been
11 the hub of gay nightlife from the 1920s to the present, and these past and present
12 spaces of theaters, bars, cafes, and clubs include: The Old Crow at 962 Market Street;
13 Silver Rail at 974 Market Street; Gangway at 841 Larkin Street; Aunt Charlie's at 133
14 Turk Street; Tait's Café at 44 Ellis Street; Why Not at 517 Ellis Street; Gilded Cage at
15 126 Ellis Street; Peter Pan at 30 Mason Street; Rocket Club at 230 Turk Street; Blue
16 and Gold at 136 Turk Street ; Club Turkish Baths at 132 Turk Street; Streets of Paris at
17 54 Mason Street; Frolic Room at 141 Mason Street; Donut Palace at 1019 Market
18 Street; Deco Lounge at 510 Larkin Street; Tea Room Theatre at 154 Eddy Street;
19 Queen Mary's Pub at 133 Turk Street; Strand Theater at 1051 Market Street; Jackson's
20 Bar and Grill at 118 Jones street; Crystal Bowl at 1032 Market Street; 1228 Club at
21 1228 Sutter Street; Kip's Bar at 70 Eddy Street; Tay-Bush Inn at 900 Bush Street; 585
22 Club at 585 Post Street; and the Rocket Club at 236 Leavenworth Street, as well as The
23 Doggie Diner; The Hillard; The Sound of Music; Rossi's and The Chukker Club which
24 were central meeting spaces for the Transgender community; and
25

1 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin and Mid-Market area was the site of literary
2 inspiration and freedom, and also hosted the Adonis bookstore at 348 Ellis Street as
3 one of the first gay bookstores in the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin and Mid-Market area became a nucleus of social
5 services directed at TGILGB people including the Tenderloin Clinic at 251 Hyde Street,
6 which provided services to gay San Franciscans in the 1980s, the Tenderloin AIDS
7 Network at 200 Golden Gate Avenue, and the Janus Information Facility at 681 Ellis
8 Street, which supported Female to Male (“FTM”) medical transitions; the National
9 Transsexual Counseling Unit on Golden Gate between Leavenworth and Jones, which
10 operated the first peer-run drop in trans counseling service in the world, funded by
11 Transgender industrialist and philanthropist Reed Erickson; the Helping Hands Center,
12 home to Gay Activist Alliance, Lavender Panthers, and various trans centers social
13 services for neighborhood residents; Glide Memorial Methodist Church, who ministered
14 to LGBT people, particularly youth, and were many important organization and efforts
15 were founded including: the queer street youth organization Vanguard; the first
16 Transgender support group called Conversion Our Goal; the organization that became
17 the Central City Anti-Poverty District; the first Christian ecumenical organization to
18 address LGBT issues called The Council on the Religion and the Homosexual; Citizen’s
19 Watch, a queer-led police-monitoring group; as well as the offices of Del Martin and
20 Phyllis Lyon; and

21 WHEREAS, Many TGILGB persons, specifically Transgender and Gender-
22 variant individuals, faced and continue to face discrimination in accessing housing, and
23 the Tenderloin was and is a refuge, specifically SRO (Residential Hotels) housing stock
24 such as the El Rosa Hotel at 166 Turk Street; The Camelot Hotel on Turk; The Hyland
25 Hotel at 101 Taylor; The Bijou at Turk and Mason and The Ambassador Hotel, that in
the 1960s rented to Transgender women; and

1 WHEREAS, Today there is a vibrant TGILGB community, in the Tenderloin and
2 Mid-Market area, and in specific Transgender women, who consider the Tenderloin the
3 last place of refuge; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the 2015 San Francisco Homeless Point-In-Time Count
5 Report and Survey, 29% of all homeless people are TGILGB, many of whom are on the
6 streets in and around the District and transition into low-income hotels in the District;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The Trump administration has a complete disregard for the lives and
9 safety of the TGILGB community, and in particular Transgender women, and has
10 recently instructed the Department of Justice and the Department of Education to
11 withdraw guidance to schools receiving federal funds to interpret Title IX as a protection
12 against discrimination based on gender identity and expression; and

13 WHEREAS, While the Board wishes to memorialize the whole history of the
14 Tenderloin and Mid-Market area, acknowledging the District within the aforementioned
15 boundaries seeks to create a vibrant, safe, and supportive neighborhood for the
16 Transgender community particularly trans women of color; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
18 Francisco establishes the District to preserve and further develop the Tenderloin and
19 Mid-Market area's past, present, and future manifestation of TGILGB communities and
20 resources, recognize the historical and present contributions of the community and
21 neighborhood, and to specifically stabilize TGILGB residents and their housing, artists
22 and performing arts institutions, businesses and community-serving institutions; and, be
23 it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Planning
25 Department along with the Office of Economic Workforce Development, to establish a
District working group consisting of members of the community representing the

1 following sectors: residents, historical preservationists, arts and cultural workers, small
2 business owners and employees, club promoters and nightlife experts, housing and
3 tenant advocates, TGILGB advocates, land use, social and health services, and City
4 department and other local agency staff, to develop a strategic implementation plan to
5 set policies that promote community development and stabilization, and increase the
6 presence and visibility of the District; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That other City departments and other bodies may be
8 requested to be part of the strategic planning of the District, including but not limited to:
9 the Historic Preservation Commission; Mayor's Office of Housing and Community
10 Development; Department of Public Health; Department of Homelessness and
11 Supportive Housing; Small Business Commission; Arts Commission; Department of
12 Human Services; Department of Aging and Adult Services; Department of Children,
13 Youth and their Families; Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure;
14 Department of Building Inspection, Department of Public Works; Entertainment
15 Commission, and Recreation and Park Department, and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges that the strategic plan for the
17 Compton's Transgender Cultural District be developed by the working group in
18 conjunction from the above listed government bodies and be submitted to the Planning
19 Commission and Board of Supervisors within eight months of adoption of this
20 Resolution; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board commends the effort of the TGILGB
22 community in working towards the creation of the Compton's Cultural District that will
23 contribute to the well-being of the TGILGB community in the City and County of San
24 Francisco.