

1 [Fire Hydrant Commemorative Plaques - 3899-20th Street - Intersection of Hayes and
2 Buchanan Streets - Intersection of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue]

3 **Resolution initiating the approval process for the installation of plaques by the fire**
4 **hydrants at 3899-20th Street, the northwest corner of Hayes Street and Buchanan**
5 **Street, and the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue, to commemorate**
6 **them as the few working fire hydrants in San Francisco during the fire of 1906, and for**
7 **thwarting the spread of fires from reaching the historic Mission District and the City’s**
8 **western region.**

9
10 WHEREAS, The earthquake of April 18th, 1906 sparked the largest fire in San
11 Francisco history and devastated much of San Francisco’s infrastructure, including its
12 emergency water systems; and

13 WHEREAS, The fire hydrants at 3899-20th Street, the Northwest Corner of Hayes
14 Street and Buchanan Street, and the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue,
15 were found as some of the few operational hydrants in San Francisco; and

16 WHEREAS, The hydrant at 3899-20th Street, later named “The Little Giant,” was found
17 by Engine Co. 7 and later joined by Engine Co.’s 10, 19, 21, 25, and 27, who used the
18 hydrant’s constant flow to prevent the fire from reaching the Mission District; and

19 WHEREAS, The hydrants at Hayes and Buchanan and Ellis and Van Ness, later
20 named “The Silver Twins,” were found by Engine Co.’s 2, 14, 21, 23, and 34, who used the
21 hydrants’ constant flow to prevent the fire from reaching the Western Addition and San
22 Francisco’s general western region; and

23 WHEREAS, The Little Giant and The Silver Twins are celebrated annually by San
24 Francisco residents, who paint the hydrants and leave flowers by them on the anniversary of
25 the 1906 fire; and

1 WHEREAS, Mayor Joe Alioto gave permission for The Little Giant to remain gold
2 throughout the year to honor its extraordinary contribution to San Francisco and the Mission
3 District; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares its intent to initiate the process in
5 accordance with Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque
6 Ordinance, for installation of a commemorative plaque honoring and recognizing the history of
7 The Little Giant at 3899-20th Street; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares its intent to initiate the
9 process in accordance with Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative
10 Street Plaque Ordinance, for installation of a commemorative plaque honoring and
11 recognizing the history of The Silver Twin at the northwest corner of Hayes Street and
12 Buchanan Street; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares its intent to initiate the
14 process in accordance with Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative
15 Street Plaque Ordinance, for installation of a commemorative plaque honoring and
16 recognizing the history of The Silver Twin at the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness
17 Avenue; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Public
19 Works to work with the District 5 Supervisor and the District 8 Supervisor, local neighborhood
20 organizations, and other interested parties, to provide commemorative plaques, expeditiously
21 process such request, and return to the Board for final action on the commemorative street
22 plaques.