

1 [Recognizing La Playa Village Neighborhood]

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3 **Resolution recognizing La Playa Village neighborhood and resident community for its**  
4 **historical, architectural, and cultural significance.**

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6 WHEREAS, Once a sea of sand dunes in the Outside Lands of San Francisco's  
7 westside, La Playa Village grew into a tightly-knit neighborhood rooted in history, architecture,  
8 community, and culture; and

9 WHEREAS, From its 20th century origins to current open spaces, streets, homes, and  
10 businesses, La Playa Village represents how grassroots action builds vibrant, beloved  
11 communities; and

12 WHEREAS, La Playa Village is the geographical area unofficially centered around La  
13 Playa Street, south of Golden Gate Park, including adjacent blocks closest to Ocean Beach,  
14 and consists of long-term businesses, residents, the infamous N-Judah turnaround, and  
15 neighborhood-led open spaces like La Playa Park; and

16 WHEREAS, The name La Playa reigns from the areas nickname as "San Francisco's  
17 beach village", but few know that the area previously went by a different pseudonym; and

18 WHEREAS, The neighborhood began development from windswept sand dunes in the  
19 early 1900s as Carville, a residential community where homes were made from  
20 decommissioned streetcars that once traversed the city; and

21 WHEREAS, While the vast majority of Carville no longer remains, 1632 Great Highway,  
22 a home built in 1908 from two cable cars and a horse car, serves as a reminder of the  
23 neighborhood's history and architectural legacy; and

1 WHEREAS, The conversion of 1800s transit infrastructure into residential housing  
2 exemplifies La Playa Village's creativity and ignited its development into a modern-day  
3 neighborhood; and

4 WHEREAS, Another anchor of history in La Playa Village is Saint Paul's Presbyterian  
5 Church, which was built in just 90 days by community members after the 1906 Earthquake  
6 and served the growing, diverse spiritual interests of Outer Sunset neighborhood; and

7 WHEREAS, Beyond a religious space, Saint Paul's was a center for community life,  
8 serving as a school in the early 1900s, hosting various cultural events, fostering community  
9 outreach and education programs, holding language-inclusive services, which all played a  
10 pivotal role in bringing together individuals from different backgrounds and fostering a sense  
11 of community; and

12 WHEREAS, In the early 2000s, community spirit in La Playa Village began to rise again  
13 through the grassroots efforts to transform underutilized public space for neighborhood  
14 benefit; and

15 WHEREAS, Beginning in 2003, then-Supervisor Fiona Ma and the owners of Java  
16 Beach Café, Pat and Buffy Maguire, converted a neglected lot at the N-Judah turnaround into  
17 a green space for residents, businesses, and visitors to enjoy; and

18 WHEREAS, The space soon became known as La Playa Park and community  
19 investment, championed by resident Steve Ward, later extended the space to include the  
20 opposing south side of the N-Judah turnaround as well.; and

21 WHEREAS, Over the past 20 years, volunteers and patrons from the neighborhood  
22 have successfully worked together to fundraise and secure private grants, helping turn this  
23 formerly trash strewn, disused area into a beautiful community space complete with benches,  
24 bird baths, flowers, bocce ball courts, and edible landscaping; and  
25

1 WHEREAS, These efforts reflect deep local, grassroots investment and laid the  
2 groundwork for ongoing beautification projects, such as the Last Stop/First Stop mural by Jeff  
3 Canham, Pacific Transit sculptures by Jesse Schlesinger, pedestrian safety improvements,  
4 gardening groups, and community barbecues; and

5 WHEREAS, Volunteer commitments and sustained efforts to improve the immediate  
6 community have created true partnerships with city departments, leveraging tens of  
7 thousands of in-kind dollars for local improvements; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, La Playa Village thrives as a diverse, beachfront, family-friendly,  
9 and creative neighborhood; it contains a mix of restaurants, coffee shops, green space, and  
10 residents, with special recognition to Java Beach Café, established in 1993, and Celia's by the  
11 Beach, which has been serving up warm plates of Mexican comfort food for over 60 years;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, From live music to fabulous sunsets over the Pacific, La Playa Plaza  
14 invites visitors to slow down, take a breath, and relax all while connecting with the locals; now,  
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That no matter how one engages with La Playa Village, they are bound to  
17 experience the neighborhood's unique interplay of history, culture, and community that  
18 continues to define this corner of San Francisco; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes La Playa Village and  
20 encourages residents and visitors alike to explore this beachside neighborhood for  
21 themselves.