

File No. 170884

Committee Item No. 5

Board Item No. 18

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Land Use and Transportation Committee Date September 11, 2017

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date SEPTEMBER 19 2017

Cmte Board

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- Referral FYI 080217
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Completed by: Erica Major Date September 8, 2017
 Completed by: Erica Major Date 9/14/2017

1 [Urging the Recreation and Parks Commission to Remove the Name of Justin Herman from
2 the Plaza on The Embarcadero]

3 **Resolution urging the Recreation and Parks Commission to remove the name of Justin**
4 **Herman from the plaza located at the intersection of The Embarcadero and Market**
5 **Street.**

6
7 WHEREAS, In 1972, the plaza at the foot of Market Street, adjacent to The
8 Embarcadero was opened and named after Justin Herman; and

9 WHEREAS, Justin Herman was the executive director of the San Francisco
10 Redevelopment Agency between 1959 and 1971; and

11 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency relied on funding from the
12 federal government's Housing and Home Finance Agency (now known as the Department of
13 Housing and Urban Development); and

14 WHEREAS, The California Redevelopment Act of 1945 allowed cities and counties to
15 create redevelopment areas to combat so-called "urban blight", which was defined by income
16 level of residents, dilapidation of building structures and social conditions, including the size of
17 non-white populations; and

18 WHEREAS, To combat "urban blight", the redevelopment agencies promoted "urban
19 renewal" which assumed that the method to "improve" a neighborhood was to destroy it, and
20 accumulated properties through eminent domain; and

21 WHEREAS, These misguided development projects, called "slum removal", did not
22 recognize and value the existing vibrant neighborhoods – mostly, low-income and of people of
23 color – being destroyed; and

1 WHEREAS, During Herman's tenure as director, he oversaw the second phase of the
2 redevelopment of the Western Addition, that displaced approximately 4,000 residents, small
3 businesses, and bull-dozed 60 square blocks of the City; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1970, Herman said "This land is too valuable to permit poor people to
5 park on it"; to give credibility to this "urban renewal" project that sought to buy up buildings
6 and evict people who were poor, old, black and brown; and

7 WHEREAS, The redevelopment of the Western Addition also included the building of
8 the Geary Expressway that divided and separated the largely African-American Fillmore
9 District from the Japanese community to its east; and

10 WHEREAS, Not only did the Japanese community suffer displacement during
11 redevelopment but it had recently reestablished its roots in the City after being forcibly
12 removed to internment camps during World War II; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite robust African-American community opposition and litigation,
14 Phase 2 of the Western Addition redevelopment was implemented; now, therefore, be it

15 WHEREAS, According to Recreation and Park Department officials, the estimated cost
16 to change the name of Justin Herman Plaza is \$5,200 which includes replacing two signs
17 bearing the name of the Plaza and could be paid for from the Recreation and Park
18 Department's materials and supplies budget.

19 RESOLVED, That given its location, the plaza on The Embarcadero, particularly since
20 the demolition of the Central Freeway in 1991, is a key public space for residents and tourists,
21 and provides an important connection between downtown and the waterfront; and, be it

22 RESOLVED, That if the plaza on The Embarcadero be named for a honored resident,
23 that this person should embody San Francisco values of equity, inclusion and forward-
24 thinking; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Recreation and
2 Parks Commission to remove the name of Justin Herman from the plaza at The Embarcadero
3 and Market Street; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the plaza be known as the "Embarcadero Plaza" until a
5 suitable honoree has been agreed upon.

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170884

SUBMITTED

PRESENTED

Petition to rename
The Justin Herman Plaza

9/11/07

To The David Johnson Plaza

It is time for a change. The name Justin Herman continues to memorialize a San Francisco era of redevelopment which displaced thousands of African Americans, Asians, and Jews, targeting low-income neighborhoods under the guise of "Urban Renewal." While the Fillmore District was nowhere near downtown, and its economy had nothing to do with reviving a downtown business district, the redevelopment plan was effectuated in an era of rising civil rights activism, and perpetuates memories of a dark time. The only surviving historical photos of The Fillmore prior to this massive redevelopment were captured by the now renowned photographer, David Johnson.

Accomplishments:

- In 1970, Mr. Johnson was appointed by Mayor Alioto to the Citizens Committee for the Haight-Asbury District.
- While employed at UCSF Medical Center, organized "The Black Caucus" to integrate higher level opportunities for minorities; commendation from Chancellor Philip Lee.
- 1977 commendation from Benjamin Tom for improving employment opportunities for Chinese Americans.
- 1977 Appointed to the SF Planning Council by Mayor George Moscone
- Received numerous awards, commendations, and recognition from SF Mayors Ed Lee, Gavin Newsome, George Moscone, and Joseph Alioto.
- Exhibitions throughout California as well as NY, Atlanta, GA, Washington, DC.
- Photographs featured in KQED's Peabody Award-winning documentary series, "Neighborhoods: The Fillmore District."
- Member, Golden Decade Photographers with 15 major books containing his works as well as several films.
- Photographs now hang in the Priscilla and Mark Zuckerberg SF General Hospital and Trauma Center.

- Photographs archived at the UC Berkeley Bancroft Library. Head Curator, Jack Von Ewu states: "The David Johnson collection is the most important African American one, the Bancroft has received in the last 18 years."
- Photographed March on Washington and photographs are in the Library of Congress, Washington, DC
- Former President of the SF African American Art & Cultural Society

Go to change.org Join in the Petition for the David Johnson Plaza or

Contact: San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
Telephone: 415-831-2750
FAX: 415-221-8034
e-mail: recpark.commission@sfgov.org

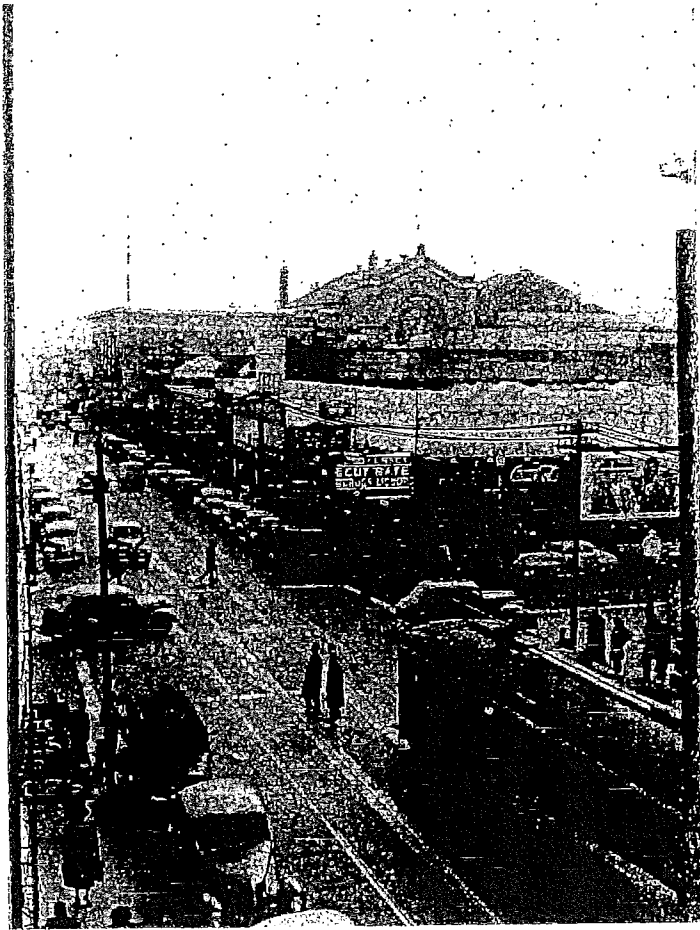
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BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Margaret McArthur, Commission Liaison, Recreation and Parks
Commission
Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, Recreation and Parks Department
Sheryl Evans Davis, Director, Human Rights Department

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: August 2, 2017

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Peskin on July 25, 2017:

File No. 170884

Resolution urging the Recreation and Parks Commission to remove the name of Justin Herman from the plaza located at the intersection of The Embarcadero and Market Street.

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: erica.major@sfgov.org.

c: Sarah Madland, Recreation and Parks Department

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

RECEIVED
7/25/2017 CLP:18pm
S
Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor [] inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. [] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. []
- 9. Reactivate File No. []
- 10. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on []

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Supervisors Peskin, Breed, Kim, Cohen, Ronen, Fewer, Yee, Sheehy, Farrell, Safai, Tang

Subject:

Removing the name of Justin Herman from the plaza on The Embarcadero

The text is listed:

Resolution urging the Recreation and Parks Commission to remove the name of Justin Herman from the plaza located at the intersection of The Embarcadero and Market Street

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: [Signature]

For Clerk's Use Only

