

1 [Urging the Recreation and Parks Commission to Commemoratively Name a Street in Golden
2 Gate Park “Claude the Alligator Way”]

3 **Resolution urging the Recreation and Parks Commission to commemoratively name a
4 street in Golden Gate Park “Claude the Alligator Way.”**

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6 WHEREAS, Since arriving at the California Academy of Sciences in 2008, Claude the
7 American alligator captivated generations of San Franciscans as an albino alligator, inspired
8 compassion for wildlife and sparked lifelong curiosity in students and families across San
9 Francisco and around the world; and

10 WHEREAS, Hatched in a Louisiana swamp, Claude later became a cultural icon of San
11 Francisco—known for his quiet charisma, distinctive appearance, and unwavering ability to
12 enchant school groups, tourists, and longtime residents; and

13 WHEREAS, His presence at the California Academy of Sciences, located in Golden
14 Gate Park, deeply enriched the educational and scientific experience of visitors and cemented
15 his status as one of the City’s most cherished animal ambassadors; and

16 WHEREAS, Claude the Alligator was one of the estimated 100-200 albino alligators
17 that exist in the world and developed a loyal following on the Academy’s Claude Cam; and

18 WHEREAS, On December 2, 2024, at the age of 30, Claude unexpectedly passed
19 away due to liver cancer. His death prompted an outpouring of public affection and reflection
20 on the meaningful role he played in shaping San Francisco’s identity as a city committed to
21 both science education and a spirit that embraces the uniqueness and the invaluable
22 contributions of those who grew up feeling a little different; and

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a practice of commemorating streets to honor
24 individuals or cultural figures who have made significant contributions to the City’s heritage,
25 identity, or public life; and

1 WHEREAS, Claude's extraordinary impact on public education, conservation
2 awareness, and community connection in Golden Gate Park makes him a fitting recipient of
3 such a commemorative honor; and

4 WHEREAS, Several streets in Golden Gate Park adjacent to the Academy of Sciences
5 are suitable candidates for being commemoratively named "Claude the Alligator Way,"
6 including:

7 • 8th Avenue between Fulton Street and JFK Drive;
8 • Bowl Drive between Music Concourse Drive and Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive;
9 • The unnamed road behind the Music Concourse between Music Concourse Drive and
10 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive;
11 • Music Concourse Drive between JFK Drive and MLK Jr. Drive; and
12 • 10th Avenue between Fulton Street and JFK Drive; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Recreation and Park
14 Commission to commemoratively name one of the above-listed streets in Golden Gate Park
15 as "Claude the Alligator Way" in recognition of Claude's decades of service as a beloved
16 District 7 resident and educational ambassador; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Recreation and Park
18 Commission to post signage designating the commemorative name; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That within 30 days of the final Recreation and Park
20 Commission action on the commemorative naming, the Board urges the Commission to
21 forward its decision to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to be placed in the file for this
22 Resolution.