

1 [Resolution of Intention - Street Name Change - Phelan Avenue - "Frida Kahlo Way"]

2

3 **Resolution declaring the intention of the Board of Supervisors to rename Phelan**  
4 **Avenue, between Flood Avenue and Ocean Avenue, to "Frida Kahlo Way."**

5

6 WHEREAS, Phelan Avenue is the name of the public right-of-way between Flood and  
7 Ocean Avenues; and

8 WHEREAS, Phelan Ave was named in approximately 1906 after James Phelan, the  
9 father of James Duval Phelan; and

10 WHEREAS, James Duval Phelan served as the Mayor of San Francisco from 1897 to  
11 1902; and

12 WHEREAS, James Duval Phelan ("Phelan") (1861-1930) served as a U.S. Senator  
13 from 1915 to 1921; and

14 WHEREAS, Phelan supported racist, xenophobic and anti-immigration policies; and

15 WHEREAS, Phelan supported the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the Immigration  
16 Act of 1924, which halted immigration from China and Japan to the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, Phelan ran unsuccessfully for a second term and during this senatorial  
18 campaign using anti-Asian rhetoric, such as "Keep California White" and "Save Our State from  
19 Oriental Aggression"; and

20 WHEREAS, Phelan supported laws banning interracial marriage between Asians and  
21 Caucasians; and

22 WHEREAS, In the 1970s, James D. Phelan State Beach was restored to its original  
23 name, China Beach, when the National Park Service acquired the land; and

24

25

1           WHEREAS, The City College of San Francisco’s main campus, at Ocean and Phelan  
2 Avenues, was once named Phelan campus but was renamed the Ocean campus due to  
3 Phelan’s racist legacy; and

4           WHEREAS, In 2017, University of San Francisco students successfully lobbied to  
5 rename the school’s Phelan Hall to Burt A. Toler Hall, after an African-American alumnus; and

6           WHEREAS, Under the current Presidential administration, anti-immigrant, racist,  
7 bigoted and white supremacist rhetoric and acts of violence have drastically increased; and

8           WHEREAS, Across the country, public statues, parks, plazas, buildings and streets  
9 have been renamed to remove names that honored influential Confederate figures; and

10          WHEREAS, San Francisco remains a City that is founded on the principles of inclusion,  
11 tolerance and diversity; and

12          WHEREAS, San Francisco is proud to be a Sanctuary City that protects and supports  
13 our immigrants; and

14          WHEREAS, There is a local, national and international movement to publically  
15 recognize women in public offices and public places; and

16          WHEREAS, Supervisor Norman Yee’s office conducted extensive community outreach  
17 starting nine months ago and formed a Renaming Committee for Phelan Avenue that involved  
18 residents and stakeholders to create a shortlist of names to replace Phelan Avenue; and

19          WHEREAS, The community voted on this list and elected to rename Phelan Avenue to  
20 Frida Kahlo Way, in recognition of her contribution to San Francisco art and culture; and

21          WHEREAS, Frida Kahlo was a queer, Mexican woman of color with disabilities; and

22          WHEREAS, Frida Kahlo is an internationally recognized painter; and

23          WHEREAS, Frida Kahlo was married to the famous muralist, Diego Rivera, whose  
24 world famous Pan American Unity mural is located on City College of San Francisco’s Ocean  
25 campus; and

1           WHEREAS, Frida Kahlo’s portrait is the one of the most widely recognized images in  
2 the Pan American Unity mural; and

3           WHEREAS, In 1930, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo first lived and worked in San  
4 Francisco when Rivera painted murals at The City Club of San Francisco and at the California  
5 School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute); and

6           WHEREAS, During this time in San Francisco, Frida Kahlo befriended San Francisco  
7 photographers, Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, and Edward Weston, and also painted  
8 her “Frida and Diego Rivera” double portrait which is on display in the San Francisco Museum  
9 of Modern Art; and

10           WHEREAS, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo deepened their connection to San Francisco  
11 when Diego Rivera returned to the City in 1940 to paint the Pan American Unity mural at the  
12 Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island (intended as a gift to City College of  
13 San Francisco), while Frida Kahlo visited and the couple remarried in San Francisco; and

14           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends to rename Phelan Avenue to Frida  
15 Kahlo Way to recognize Kahlo’s influence as a leader in the Latinx, feminist and the LGBTQ  
16 communities; and be it

17           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to initiate  
18 the City’s street renaming procedures, expeditiously process the required actions related to  
19 street renaming, coordinate with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Office regarding posted  
20 and published notice for the street renaming, and the report to the Board on its findings so  
21 that the Board may officially rename the street.

22  
23  
24  
25