

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco 94102-4689  
Tel. No. 554-5184  
Fax No. 554-5163  
TDD/TTY No. 544-5227

---

---

MEMORANDUM

---

---

Date: October 5, 2017  
To: Margaret McArthur, Commission Liaison, Recreation and Parks Commission  
From: *ACC* Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board  
Subject: Urging the Recreation and Parks Commission to Remove the Name of Justin Herman from the Plaza on The Embarcadero (File No. 170884)

---

On September 19, 2017, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 354-17, that urges the Recreation and Parks Commission to remove the name of Justin Herman from the Plaza on The Embarcadero, effective September 29, 2017.

As directed in the Resolution, the attached certified copy is being forwarded to you for your information and consideration.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Erica Major, Assistant Clerk, at (415) 554-4441.

c: Phil Ginsburg, Recreation and Parks Department  
Sarah Madland, Recreation and Parks Department

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  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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

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



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails  
Resolution

File Number: 170884

Date Passed: September 19, 2017

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.

September 11, 2017 Land Use and Transportation Committee - AMENDED

September 11, 2017 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

September 19, 2017 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 7 - Breed, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Sheehy and Yee

Excused: 4 - Cohen, Farrell, Safai and Tang

File No. 170884

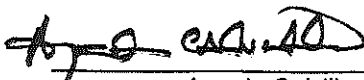
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/19/2017 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unsigned  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
9/29/17  
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
9/29/17  
Date



City and County of San Francisco  
Certified Copy  
Resolution

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

170884 [ Urging the Recreation and Parks Commission to Remove the Name of Justin Herman from the Plaza on The Embarcadero ]

**Sponsors:** Peskin; Breed, Kim, Cohen, Ronen, Fewer, Yee, Sheehy, Farrell, Safai and Tang

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.

9/19/2017 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 7 - Breed, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Sheehy and Yee

Excused: 4 - Cohen, Farrell, Safai and Tang

9/29/2017 Mayor - RETURNED UNSIGNED

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO


CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a full, true, and correct copy of the original thereof on file in this office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City and County of San Francisco.

October 03, 2017

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board