

1 [Street Name Change to Dr. Tom Waddell Place]

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3 **Resolution changing the name of Lech Walesa Street in the Civic Center area to “Dr.**  
4 **Tom Waddell Place,” in recognition of Dr. Tom Waddell’s contributions to the City and**  
5 **County of San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, Dr. Tom Waddell was born in 1937 in Paterson, New Jersey and was  
8 adopted by Gene and Hazel Waddell, former vaudeville acrobats who encouraged Waddell to  
9 excel in athletics, including gymnastics; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1965, after obtaining his medical degree and completing his medical  
11 internship Dr. Waddell joined the civil rights movement in Selma, Alabama; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Waddell was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966 and became a  
13 preventive-medicine officer and paratrooper and subsequently, a conscientious objector upon  
14 being notified that he was to be deployed to Vietnam; and

15 WHEREAS, He was then sent to train as a decathlete for the 1968 Olympics where he  
16 placed 6<sup>th</sup> among 33 competitors and set five personal records in the ten events; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Waddell moved to San Francisco and established his private practice  
18 in the Castro neighborhood and founded the Gay Games, a gay sporting event modeled on  
19 the Olympics that was founded on the principle of inclusion, with all athletes being welcome,  
20 regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political  
21 belief(s), age, or health status; and

22 WHEREAS, The first Gay Games took place in 1982 in San Francisco and celebrated  
23 sportsmanship, personal achievement, and inclusiveness; and

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1           WHEREAS, On July 11, 1987 at the age of 49, in San Francisco, Dr. Tom Waddell died  
2 of AIDS, leaving behind his daughter Jessica Waddell Lewinstein and legal wife, lesbian  
3 athlete Sara Lewinstein; and

4           WHEREAS, Dr. Tom Waddell worked as a physician at the City Clinic in San  
5 Francisco to provide medical care to the city's most underserved and marginalized  
6 communities; and

7           WHEREAS, The City Clinic where Dr. Tom Waddell was employed as a physician was  
8 renamed the Tom Waddell Health Center, is now the only physical facility located on Lech  
9 multidisciplinary Walesa in the Civic Center neighborhood, and continues to provide the city's  
10 residents with services to respond to a wide range of medical, psychological, and social  
11 needs, including, but not limited to, a transgender clinic, substance abuse programs, and HIV  
12 testing and treatment; and

13           WHEREAS, Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Tom Waddell strove to excel as an individual,  
14 whether it was as a world-class athlete, a doctor serving the most vulnerable individuals, a  
15 founder of an international sporting event that celebrates equality for all, or as a loving father  
16 and partner; and

17           WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco celebrates the tolerance and inclusiveness that  
18 Dr. Tom Waddell advocated throughout his life and strongly refutes the hate speech against  
19 the LGBTQ community expressed recently by Lech Walesa; and

20           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors recognizes that the Department of Public  
21 Works, on behalf of the City, has taken all necessary actions to effect this name change,  
22 including fully complying with regulations regarding street name changes under California  
23 Streets and Highways Code Section 970.5, Public Works Code Section 423, California  
24 Government Code Section 34091.1, and California Streets and Highways Code Sections  
25 970.5 and 5026; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby changes the name of Lech Walesa  
2 Street to “Dr. Tom Waddell Place,” in recognition of his valued contributions to the City of San  
3 Francisco; and, be it

4           FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Transportation  
5 Code Section 2.2, directs the Municipal Transportation Agency to prepare street signs  
6 indicating both the new and the former names of the street, with the new name "Dr. Tom  
7 Waddell Place" in large letters, and the old name "Lech Walesa Street" in smaller letters  
8 above or beneath the new name; and, be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That both of the street names shall remain posted on street  
10 signs for five years, and then the street signs shall be replaced with signs indicating only the  
11 new street name, "Dr. Tom Waddell Place;" and, be it

12           FURTHER RESOLVED, That in adopting this legislation, the Board of Supervisors  
13 does not intend to effectuate any change in City department jurisdictional control over the  
14 subject portion of “Lech Walesa Street” to be known as “Dr. Tom Waddell Place”; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
16 to promptly forward a copy of this Resolution to the County Surveyor in accordance with  
17 California Streets and Highways Code Section 5026.

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