

1 [Administrative Code - Naming the City Hall Press Room for Barbara A. Taylor]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to name the City Hall Press Room in**  
4 **memory of legendary reporter Barbara Ann Taylor.**

5 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
6 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
7 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.  
8 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
9 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
10 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
11 subsections or parts of tables.

9

10 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

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12 Section 1. Chapter 4 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding Section  
13 4.28, to read as follows:

14

15 **SEC. 4.28. NAMING THE CITY HALL PRESS ROOM FOR BARBARA A. TAYLOR.**

16

17 **(a) Findings.**

18

19 *Barbara Ann Taylor served as San Francisco City Hall bureau chief for KCBS Radio for more*  
20 *than 30 years, covering City Hall politics across seven different mayoral administrations, until her*  
21 *retirement in 2015, which earned her the title of “Dean of the City Hall Press Corps.” Taylor*  
22 *leveraged her experience as a political reporter to also co-write the Insider column and opinion pieces*  
23 *for the Hearst-owned San Francisco Examiner and to serve as on-air host for the televised weekly City*  
24 *Desk News.*

25

26 *Taylor adeptly and incisively covered the biggest news stories of her time, including the*  
27 *shocking assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk; the Jonestown*  
28 *massacre, which changed the course of politics in San Francisco; the Loma Prieta earthquake, the*

1 largest natural disaster to strike the City in over 80 years; and San Francisco's groundbreaking and  
2 revolutionary issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples, paving the way for legalizing gay  
3 marriage. Taylor covered these events and many others, large and small, with a skilled  
4 professionalism that set the standard for countless other journalists.

5 Utilizing her fearlessness, tenacity, street smarts, and gut instincts, Taylor ferreted out stories  
6 and cut through the codswallop, providing her listeners with news stories that were relevant, accurate,  
7 balanced, and timely, earning her numerous awards for her news coverage, both as an individual  
8 reporter and as a member of a team unit, including the Peabody and Alfred I. duPont-Columbia  
9 University awards and six national Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) "Edward R.  
10 Murrow" awards for overall excellence.

11 At once empathetic and hard-hitting in her beat reporting, Taylor threaded her stories with  
12 human interest, fairness, and profound integrity, earning the respect of her subjects and colleagues  
13 alike, and becoming a role model and subject matter expert even to those competitors wise enough to  
14 watch and learn from the best in the business.

15 Accompanied by her canine companion, Tanner, Taylor often held court in her City Hall press  
16 room office and recording studio, hosting a steady stream of elected officials, legislative aides, City  
17 Hall flaks, lobbyists, activists, political gadflies, and bureaucrats eager to get their say on the stories  
18 she was working on.

19 When politicians tried to avoid being peppered with her pointed questions or her dogged  
20 inquiries, Taylor knew where to track them down, lying in wait with microphone in hand by their  
21 parked car, on a back staircase, or at their favorite after-hours (or occasional lunchtime) watering  
22 hole.

23 A consummate beat reporter, Taylor knew when to hold tight to information given to her in  
24 confidence, when to use it for background, and when to roll it out, earning her the trust of valuable

1 sources, which ultimately benefited her listeners, viewers, and readers, who came to depend on her  
2 ability to competently and confidently report the news with context and authority, often in real time.

3 After diligently reporting on the work and words of seven mayors and dozens of members of the  
4 Board of Supervisors, as well as covering tens of thousands of hours of public meetings, thousands of  
5 press conferences, and hundreds of public protests, Taylor had one of the longest tenures of any  
6 individual consistently working under the City Hall dome and recording history as it unfolded.

7 **(b) Barbara A. Taylor Press Room.**

8 The City Hall Press Room is named the Barbara A. Taylor Press Room.

9 **(c) Signage.**

10 By no later than February 1, 2022, the City Administrator shall install lettering on the glass  
11 portion of the door to the City Hall Press Room identifying the room as the Barbara A. Taylor Press  
12 Room. The size and style of the lettering shall be consistent with the size and style of lettering used on  
13 doors throughout City Hall.

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15 Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after  
16 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the  
17 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board  
18 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

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20 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
21 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

22 By: /s/ Anne Pearson  
23 ANNE PEARSON  
24 Deputy City Attorney

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