

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Alaric Degrafinried, Interim Director, Public Works  
William Scott, Police Chief, Police Department  
Jeffrey Tumlin, Executive Director, Municipal Transportation Agency  
Jeanine Nicholson, Chief, Fire Department  
Mary Ellen Carroll, Executive Director, Department of Emergency Management

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: August 3, 2021

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

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The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Walton on July 27, 2021:

**File No. 210888**

**Resolution declaring the intention of the Board of Supervisors to rename Donner Avenue between Arelious Walker Drive and West Harney Way, which is a street located in Alice Griffith Public Housing, to Charlie Way.**

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: [erica.major@sfgov.org](mailto:erica.major@sfgov.org).

cc: David Steinberg, Public Works  
Jeremy Spitz, Public Works  
John Thomas, Public Works  
Lena Liu, Public Works  
Rowena Carr, Police Department  
Lili Gamero, Police Department  
Diana Oliva-Aroche, Police Department  
Sgt Stacy Youngblood, Police Department  
Kate Breen, Municipal Transportation Agency  
Janet Martinsen, Municipal Transportation Agency  
Joel Ramos, Municipal Transportation Agency  
Theresa Ludwig, Fire Department  
Victor Lim, Department of Emergency Management

1 [Resolution of Intention - Street Name Change - Donner Avenue to Charlie Way]

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3 **Resolution declaring the intention of the Board of Supervisors to rename Donner**  
4 **Avenue between Arelious Walker Drive and West Harney Way, which is a street located**  
5 **in Alice Griffith Public Housing, to Charlie Way.**

6

7 WHEREAS, Donner Avenue is the name of the public right-of-way inside of the Alice  
8 Griffith Housing Projects; and

9 WHEREAS, Alice Griffith Housing Projects, formerly known, as Double Rock, is where  
10 a young ten-year-old Charlie Walker and his family planted their first California roots after  
11 leaving Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1943 escaping Jim Crow and massive lynching; and

12 WHEREAS, Charlie Walker like most Black migrants from the deep south, was placed  
13 in segregated public housing communities in San Francisco; Charlie's family resided at 211  
14 Double Rock Road Building 32-R; and

15 WHEREAS, Charlie Walker at the age of 14 1/2 forged his own birth certificate and  
16 entered the US Air Force where he was heavily trained on weaponry and war fighting  
17 principles; and

18 WHEREAS, Charlie Walker was one of the first Black employees for the San Francisco  
19 Chronicle, under the supervision of Mr. Gilroy, Charlie was able to convince Mr. Gilroy that  
20 expanding paper route services in the Fillmore areas would be just as lucrative as it was in the  
21 white areas because black people also liked to read the paper; Charlie dispelled the myth that  
22 Black residents were less likely to pay for their subscriptions; and

23 WHEREAS, Charlie Walker led protests in the 1960s to open public construction jobs  
24 to Black contracts who were being shunned and deliberately passed over for white contractors

25

1 and white-dominated unions; Charlie Walker and his team of organizers were able to garner  
2 huge contracts on the BART construction; and

3 WHEREAS, Charlie Walker and five other community men armed with weaponry came  
4 to City Hall to secure then-Assembly Member, Willie Brown, to exit out of City Hall after the  
5 assassination of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk; and

6 WHEREAS, In the early 1990s, Charlie wrote an opinion column in the New Bayview  
7 Newspaper called “Why Has Nothing Worked?” and he provided the following solution to San  
8 Francisco Black Community: “There is but one way to come up from under the madness, we  
9 must own and operate the businesses in our community;” and

10 WHEREAS, In the late 1990s, Charlie Walker wrote a book called “America is Still the  
11 Place” detailing the racism he faced during Standard Oil spill of the 1970s; the Book spun into  
12 a decade long public access television show titled after the book and in 2016, the book was  
13 turned into a film under the same name that won several awards; and

14 WHEREAS, In the late 1990s, Charlie became a school reformer and was instrumental  
15 in brokering a black-centered parochial school, Muhammad University, to the children of  
16 Bayview Hunter’s Point; Charlie was tired of Black children especially Black boys being  
17 suspended and expelled out of San Francisco Public Schools and wanted a K-12 alternative;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Charlie Walker has inspired multiple generations of community leaders  
20 including his daughter, Yolanda Jones, who owns and operates Y-CAT Construction; which,  
21 hires over 30 individuals from District 10 community and his granddaughter, Geoffrea Morris,  
22 Reentry Advocate and co-founder of Parks 94124, which garnered state funding to restore  
23 Hunters Point’s Hilltop Park which was completed in 2016; and

24 WHEREAS, Charlie Walker’s grit is embedded in the fabric of Bayview Hunters Point  
25 activism and politics; and

1           WHEREAS, Charlie remains a beloved warrior and crusader for the many black and  
2 minority business owner who have been disenfranchised out of the workforce or business  
3 opportunities; and

4           WHEREAS, Charlie Walker is more than a trucker, business owner, social justice icon,  
5 he is the “Mayor of Bayview Hunter’s Point,” and one of the fathers of Black own businesses  
6 in San Francisco and in June of 2019, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by  
7 the African American Chamber of Commerce; and

8           WHEREAS, Charlie Walker loves the City and County of San Francisco and remain an  
9 outspoken activist in the Bayview Hunters Point Community even at the age of 86; and

10          WHEREAS, Charlie Walker is integral figure that is woven into fabric of San Francisco  
11 neighborhood politics with his name being synonymous with words Bayview Hunters Point;  
12 now, therefore, be it

13          RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends to rename Donner Avenue to  
14 Charlie Way to enshrine his legacy, and to mark his permanent transformation for the fight for  
15 Black and Minority business in City and County of San Francisco, and, be it,

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

# Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp  
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor  inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No.  from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

**Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.**

Sponsor(s):

Walton

Subject:

Resolution of Intention- Street Name Change- Donner Avenue to Charlie Way

The text is listed:

Resolution declaring the intention of the Board of Supervisors to rename Donner Avenue between Arelious Walker Drive and West Harney Way; which is a street only in the located in Alice Griffith Public Housing to Charlie Way.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: /s/ Shamann Walton