

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Joanne Hayes-White, Fire Chief, Fire Department  
Mohammed Nuru, Director, Public Works

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

DATE: May 1, 2019

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 Mandelman on April 23, 2019:

**File No. 190447**

**Resolution initiating the approval process for the installation of plaques by the fire hydrants at 3899-20th Street, the northwest corner of Hayes Street and Buchanan Street, and the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue, to commemorate them as the few working fire hydrants in San Francisco during the fire of 1906, and for thwarting the spread of fires from reaching the historic Mission District and the City's western region.**

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).

c: David Steinberg, Public Works  
Jeremy Spitz, Public Works  
Jennifer Blot, Public Works  
John Thomas, Public Works  
Lena Liu, Public Works

1 [Fire Hydrant Commemorative Plaques - 3899-20th Street - Intersection of Hayes and  
2 Buchanan Streets - Intersection of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue]

3 **Resolution initiating the approval process for the installation of plaques by the fire**  
4 **hydrants at 3899-20th Street, the northwest corner of Hayes Street and Buchanan**  
5 **Street, and the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue, to commemorate**  
6 **them as the few working fire hydrants in San Francisco during the fire of 1906, and for**  
7 **thwarting the spread of fires from reaching the historic Mission District and the City's**  
8 **western region.**

9  
10 WHEREAS, The earthquake of April 18th, 1906 sparked the largest fire in San  
11 Francisco history and devastated much of San Francisco's infrastructure, including its  
12 emergency water systems; and

13 WHEREAS, The fire hydrants at 3899-20th Street, the Northwest Corner of Hayes  
14 Street and Buchanan Street, and the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue,  
15 were found as some of the few operational hydrants in San Francisco; and

16 WHEREAS, The hydrant at 3899-20th Street, later named "The Little Giant," was found  
17 by Engine Co. 7 and later joined by Engine Co.'s 10, 19, 21, 25, and 27, who used the  
18 hydrant's constant flow to prevent the fire from reaching the Mission District; and

19 WHEREAS, The hydrants at Hayes and Buchanan and Ellis and Van Ness, later  
20 named "The Silver Twins," were found by Engine Co.'s 2, 14, 21, 23, and 34, who used the  
21 hydrants' constant flow to prevent the fire from reaching the Western Addition and San  
22 Francisco's general western region; and

23 WHEREAS, The Little Giant and The Silver Twins are celebrated annually by San  
24 Francisco residents, who paint the hydrants and leave flowers by them on the anniversary of  
25 the 1906 fire; and

1           WHEREAS, Mayor Joe Alioto gave permission for The Little Giant to remain gold  
2 throughout the year to honor its extraordinary contribution to San Francisco and the Mission  
3 District; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares its intent to initiate the process in  
5 accordance with Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque  
6 Ordinance, for installation of a commemorative plaque honoring and recognizing the history of  
7 The Little Giant at 3899-20th Street; and, be it

8           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares its intent to initiate the  
9 process in accordance with Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative  
10 Street Plaque Ordinance, for installation of a commemorative plaque honoring and  
11 recognizing the history of The Silver Twin at the northwest corner of Hayes Street and  
12 Buchanan Street; and, be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares its intent to initiate the  
14 process in accordance with Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative  
15 Street Plaque Ordinance, for installation of a commemorative plaque honoring and  
16 recognizing the history of The Silver Twin at the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness  
17 Avenue; and, be it

18           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Public  
19 Works to work with the District 5 Supervisor and the District 8 Supervisor, local neighborhood  
20 organizations, and other interested parties, to provide commemorative plaques, expeditiously  
21 process such request, and return to the Board for final action on the commemorative street  
22 plaques.