

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall  
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## MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: January 19, 2022

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 January 11, 2022:

**File No. 220046**

**Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Sister Vish-Knew Way" to the 000 Block of Alert Alley in recognition of activist Sister Vish-Knew, co-founder of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and her dedication to and lasting impact on San Francisco and the global LGBTQ+ community.**

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: Kate Breen, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency  
Janet Martinsen, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency  
Joel Ramos, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency  
David Steinberg, Public Works  
Bryan Dahl, Public Works  
John Thomas, Public Works  
Lena Liu, Public Works  
Theresa Ludwig, Fire Department  
Lisa Ortiz, Police Department  
Lili Gamero, Police Department  
Diana Oliva-Aroche, Police Department  
Sgt Stacy Youngblood, Police Department  
Victor Lim, Department of Emergency Management

1 [Commemorative Street Name Designation - "Sister Vish-Knew Way" - 000 Block of Alert  
2 Alley]

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3 **Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Sister Vish-Knew Way" to the 000**  
4 **Block of Alert Alley in recognition of activist Sister Vish-Knew, co-founder of the**  
5 **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and her dedication to and lasting impact on San**  
6 **Francisco and the global LGBTQ+ community.**

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8 WHEREAS, Sister Vish-Knew, aka Ken Bunch, has made significant contributions to  
9 San Francisco as a founder in 1979 of The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, which has grown  
10 from its home base in San Francisco into a worldwide spiritual, community service, activist,  
11 and artist organization offering sanctuary to its communities with houses in 60 U.S. cities and  
12 14 countries; and

13 WHEREAS, Sister Vish-Knew is a pioneer for LGBTQ+ rights and a long-time advocate  
14 through her work for marginalized and often overlooked members of society; and

15 WHEREAS, On Easter weekend in 1979 Sister Vish-Knew and two friends donned  
16 nun's habits and took to the streets of San Francisco, playing and posing for photos in the  
17 first-ever appearance of a group of "drag nuns" that has since grown into a unique LGBTQ+  
18 organization with global reach; and

19 WHEREAS, Sister Vish-Knew and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have been  
20 fierce activists and fundraisers of millions of dollars for queer and transgender rights, LBGTQ  
21 youth, HIV/AIDS advocacy and education, prison reform, immigration, and the environment;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, In 1982 Sister Vish-Knew and the Sisters produced a dog show in the  
24 Castro which was one of the first ever fundraisers for people with HIV/AIDS; and

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1           WHEREAS, Sister Vish-Knew produced the first Halloween in the Castro in 1990 with  
2 The Sisters and event partner Community United Against Violence (CUAV), which became a  
3 world-famous celebration, attracting as many as 100,000 attendees, and raising hundreds of  
4 thousands of dollars for HIV/AIDS charities and under-funded LGBTQ organizations; and

5           WHEREAS, In 1993 at the “Creating Change Conference”, Sister Vish-Knew made the  
6 first ever demand for inclusion of transgender issues and speakers at the March on  
7 Washington and Stonewall 25th anniversary; and

8           WHEREAS, Sister Vish-Knew has represented the Sisters and San Francisco across  
9 the globe, participating in the LifeBall in Vienna, Austria, leading an international contingent of  
10 Sisters to Shanghai, China for Shanghai’s 6th annual Pride celebration and receiving the  
11 honor of Grand Marshall of Prague Pride in the Czech Republic along with Sister Roma; and

12           WHEREAS, Sister Vish-Knew was an activist prior to the founding of the Sisters,  
13 producing the first Midwest Gay Pride Conferences at the University of Iowa in 1974,  
14 becoming the second person in the United States to apply for a same-sex marriage license in  
15 1976 and attending the White Night Riots in San Francisco following the murder of Harvey  
16 Milk in 1979; and

17           WHEREAS, In addition to producing the Sisters’ famous Easter Sunday celebrations in  
18 Dolores Park, Sister Vish-Knew is also a longtime resident of the Mission Dolores  
19 neighborhood; now, therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, That in order to celebrate the life of Sister Vish-Knew and her many  
21 contributions to the City and County of San Francisco and LGBTQ+ people around the world,  
22 there shall be an honorary naming of “Sister Vish-Knew Way” on Alert Alley between Dolores  
23 Street and Landers Street; and, be it

24           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Municipal  
25 Transportation Agency to erect street signs on Alert Alley between Dolores and Landers

1 Streets indicating both the honorary and the existing names of the street, either on a single  
2 sign or on separate signs, with the honorary name "Sister Vish-Knew Way" in smaller letters  
3 above or beneath the existing name; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Works is directed to add the  
5 honorary street name to its official list of Commemorative Street Names in accordance with  
6 Public Works Code, Section 789 et seq.

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# 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):

Subject:

The text is listed:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

For Clerk's Use Only