

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 9, 2023
To: Carla Short, Interim Director, Public Works
From: *ACC* Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, Office of the Clerk of the Board
Subject: Commemorative Street Plaque - Judith Heumann - United Nations Plaza
(File No. 230269)

On May 16, 20223, the Board of Supervisors adopted Board Resolution No. 256-23, sponsored by Supervisors Melgar, Safai, Peskin, and Preston and signed by Mayor London N. Breed on May 26, 2023.

A copy of the Ordinance is being submitted pursuant to Resolution No. 256-23.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Erica Major, Assistant Clerk, at (415) 554-4441 or by email at: Erica.Major@sfgov.org.

cc: David Steinberg, Public Works
Ian Schneider, Public Works
John Thomas, Public Works
Lena Liu, Public Works
Jason Wong, Public Works

1 [Commemorative Street Plaque - Judith Heumann - United Nations Plaza]

2
3 **Resolution authorizing the placement of a commemorative plaque or statuary in United**
4 **Nations Plaza in memory of Judith Heumann; directing the Department of Public Works**
5 **to carry out the installation of the aforementioned plaque or statuary.**

6
7 WHEREAS, Judy Heumann passed away at age 75 on May 4th, 2022, at her home in
8 Washington DC, and

9 WHEREAS, Judy Heumann was a disabled person who devoted her life to disability rights
10 advocacy and was a friend and mentor to countless other disabled people around the country and the
11 world, and

12 WHEREAS, Judy Heumann served as the Assistant Secretary of Education for Special
13 Education and Rehabilitative Services under President Bill Clinton from 1993 to 2001, and the
14 first Special Advisor for International Disability Rights, appointed by President Barack Obama
15 in 2010, and

16
17 WHEREAS, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, is American legislation that
18 guarantees disability access in all programs receiving federal funding . It was one of the first U.S.
19 federal civil rights laws offering protection for people with disabilities. It set precedents for
20 subsequent legislation for people with disabilities, including the Virginians with Disabilities Act
21 in 1985 and the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

22 WHEREAS, The 504 Sit-in was a disability rights protest that began April 5, 1977, in
23 Federal Buildings in multiple cities around the US, including San Francisco, by people with
24 disabilities in order to push the issuance of long-delayed regulations regarding Section 504 of
25 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and

1 WHEREAS, The protest was organized in part by Judy Heumann, who was a lifelong
2 civil rights advocate for people with disabilities whose work produced significant contributions
3 to the development of human rights legislation and policies benefiting children and adults with
4 disabilities, and WHEREAS, The protest and 504 Sit-in at the Federal Building at 50 United
5 Nations Plaza were significant because they achieved the goal of prompting the Federal
6 government to issue the long awaited regulations to guarantee access and civil rights to
7 people with disabilities, and

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco Mayor Moscone provided support and encouragement to
9 the protest, successfully intervening with the federal government to prevent the removal of the
10 protesters, and

11 WHEREAS, The most successful sit-in occurred in San Francisco at 50 United Nations
12 Plaza, at the Federal Building, planned in part by Judith Heumann, Kitty Cone, and Mary Jane
13 Owen, lasted until May 4, 1977, a total of 26 days, with more than 150 people, including 120
14 disability rights activists, ASL interpreters, personal care attendants, and other allies refusing to
15 leave, making it the longest sit-in at a federal building to date, and

16 WHEREAS, The protesters who occupied the fourth floor of the Federal building at 50
17 United Nations Plaza were primarily young and diverse, including mostly disabled people of
18 color, and led by women, with queer women playing an especially prominent role, and

19 WHEREAS, The Black Panther Party arrived to deliver food to the protesters who
20 organized the community occupation of the building, despite the FBI attempting to stop them,
21 unsuccessfully from delivering hot meals, and Glide Memorial Church and several other
22 community organizations delivered blankets and other supplies, and

23 WHEREAS, Prior to the enactment in 1990 of the Americans with Disabilities Act ,
24 Section 504 was the most important disability rights legislation in the US, and
25

1 WHEREAS, Before the passage of Section 504, disability was viewed under the law as
2 a personal deficit and responsibility, and

3 WHEREAS, Before the passage of Section 504, the American legal framework enabled
4 the treatment of people with disabilities as second-class citizens, and systematically excluded
5 them from fully participating in society, and

6 WHEREAS, The passage of Section 504 marked a recognition that progress was
7 needed in recognizing the civil rights of people with disabilities, and

8 WHEREAS, Early versions of the Act were opposed and eventually vetoed by
9 President Richard Nixon in October 1972 and March 1973, and

10 WHEREAS, From the passage of the Rehabilitation Act in 1973 to 1977, there were no
11 published regulations, despite protests, and pressure from disabled American activists and
12 their allies, who filed a successful lawsuit to compel the Federal government to issue the
13 regulations,

14 WHEREAS, Disability in Action activists, led by Judith Heumann, staged a sit in on
15 Madison Ave., New York, protesters from Paralyzed Veterans of America, the National
16 Paraplegia Foundation, and others staged demonstrations in Washington DC, and

17 WHEREAS, The regulations were finally issued and signed on April 28, 1977; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Public Works Code,
20 Section 789, et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, authorizes the placement
21 of plaques on the sidewalk at United Nations Plaza and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby urges Public Works to
23 waive all costs associated with permits and the installation of the commemorative plaque;
24 and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to take all
2 actions necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution, including approval of the
3 installation of the aforementioned plaque; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to
5 add aforementioned plaque at the aforementioned location on the City's official list of
6 commemorative sites effective immediately from the date of passage of this Resolution; and,
7 be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That Judith Heumann is hereby recognized by the San
9 Francisco Board of Supervisors for her significant contributions both nationally and
10 internationally to the Civil Rights and Disability Community.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 230269

Date Passed: May 16, 2023

Resolution authorizing the placement of a commemorative plaque or statuary in United Nations Plaza in memory of Judith Heumann; directing the Department of Public Works to carry out the installation of the aforementioned plaque or statuary.

May 15, 2023 Land Use and Transportation Committee - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE

May 15, 2023 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED AS A COMMITTEE REPORT


May 16, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai and Walton

Excused: 1 - Stefani

File No. 230269

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/16/2023 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

5/20/23

Date Approved