BOARD of SUPERVISORS

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Carla Short, Interim Director, Public Works
Jeffrey Tumlin, Executive Director, Municipal Transportation Agency

FROM: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: October 27, 2023

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Mayor Breed on October 24, 2023.

File No. 231115

Resolution adding the commemorative street name "MTT Way" to the 200 block of Grove Street in recognition of San Francisco Symphony Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas's tremendous impact on San Francisco and local arts and culture in the City throughout his 25 years as the Symphony's Music Director, and in celebration of his 79th birthday, in accordance with Public Works Code, Section 789 et seq.

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: john.carroll@sfgov.org.

cc:
Offices of Chair Melgar and Mayor Breed
David Steinberg, Public Works
Ian Schneider, Public Works
John Thomas, Public Works
Lena Liu, Public Works
Kate Breen, Municipal Transportation Agency
Janet Martinsen, Municipal Transportation Agency
Joel Ramos, Municipal Transportation Agency

FILE NO. 231115 RESOLUTION NO.

[Commemorative Street Name Designation - “MTT Way” - 200 Block of Grove Street]

Resolution adding the commemorative street name “MTT Way” to the 200 block of Grove Street in recognition of San Francisco Symphony Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas’s tremendous impact on San Francisco and local arts and culture in the City throughout his 25 years as the Symphony’s Music Director, and in celebration of his 79th birthday, in accordance with Public Works Code, Section 789 et seq.

WHEREAS, Michael Tilson Thomas made his San Francisco Symphony debut in 1974 at age 29 and quickly became a frequent and favorite guest conductor with the orchestra until he was appointed Music Director in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tilson Thomas served as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony for 25 years and has made a tremendous impact on the organization and the entire classical music world as a conductor, composer, pianist, educator, mentor, and visionary; and

WHEREAS, Through his dedication to the music of pioneering American mavericks such as John Adams, Henry Brant, Aaron Copland, Ruth Crawford Seeger, Morton Feldman, Lou Harrison, Charles Ives, and more, Michael Tilson Thomas has helped shape the American sound through San Francisco Symphony festivals, tours, and media projects; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tilson Thomas has contributed his own unique voice to classical music through his acclaimed genre-crossing compositions, including “From the Diary of Anne Frank,” “Four Preludes on Playthings of the Wind,” “Poems of Emily Dickinson,” “Agnegram,” “Urban Legend,” and “Meditations on Rilke,” among others; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tilson Thomas pushed the boundaries of traditional orchestral performances during his tenure as San Francisco Symphony Music Director through cutting-edge stagings of musical theater, operas, theatrical works, reinventions of symphonic repertory, and the creation of the San Francisco Symphony's acclaimed SoundBox series in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tilson Thomas's deep commitment to education and mentorship has affected the lives of countless young people through the expansion of the San Francisco Symphony's education initiatives during his tenure, his co-founding of the New World Symphony in Miami in 1987, and his personal mentorship of a new generation of classical musicians, including conductor and composer Teddy Abrams, composer Mason Bates, pianist Yuja Wang, and mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tilson Thomas created the acclaimed multimedia education series "Keeping Score" in 2004, making classical music more accessible to people of all ages and musical backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony's recordings—many of them released through the Symphony's own SFS Media label, which launched under MTT's leadership—have been recognized with 12 Grammy Awards; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tilson Thomas is an Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a National Medal of Arts recipient, a Peabody Award winner, a Kennedy Center Honoree, and a member of the California Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tilson Thomas is a vital part of the cultural makeup of San Francisco, championing the city through national and international orchestral tours, and collaborating frequently with Bay Area luminaries, composers, and bands; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tilson Thomas has made an indelible mark on San Francisco and on the San Francisco Symphony; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., Mayor London N. Breed is requesting the designation of commemorative street signage in honor of the contributions and accomplishments of Michael Tilson Thomas; and

WHEREAS, The designation of street signage is commemorative in nature and is not subject to procedural hearings or noticing pursuant to California Streets and Highway Code, Sections 970.5 and 5026; California Government Code, Section 5026; and San Francisco Transportation Code, Section 2.2 for official street names; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That in order to celebrate the legacy of Michael Tilson Thomas on the occasion of his 79th birthday, there shall be an honorary naming of the 200 block of Grove Street, between Franklin Street and Van Ness Avenue, as “MTT Way” in recognition of Michael Tilson Thomas’s invaluable contributions to the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the Municipal Transportation Agency erect commemorative street signage on the 200 block of Grove Street, between Franklin Street and Van Ness Avenue, indicating both the honorary street name and the existing official street name, either on a single sign distinguishing the honorary street name from the official street name or on separate signs, with the honorary name “MTT Way” placed beneath the existing official street name; and, be it

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