

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Carla Short, Director, Public Works

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

DATE: March 13, 2024

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Peskin on March 5, 2024.

File No. 240213

Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Dr. Howard Thurman Way" to the 2020 Block of Stockton Street in recognition of Dr. Howard Thurman's legacy in San Francisco.

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 Supervisor Peskin
David Steinberg, Public Works
Ian Schneider, Public Works
John Thomas, Public Works
Lena Liu, Public Works
Jason Wong, Public Works
William Blackwell, Public Works
Bernie Tse, Public Works

1 [Commemorative Street Name Designation - "Dr. Howard Thurman Way" - 2020 Stockton
2 Street]

3 **Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Dr. Howard Thurman Way" to**
4 **the 2020 Block of Stockton Street in recognition of Dr. Howard Thurman's legacy in**
5 **San Francisco.**

6
7 WHEREAS, Dr. Howard Thurman was and remains one of San Francisco's most
8 prominent religious and academic leaders and spiritual thinkers, a worldwide inspiration and
9 mentor whose influence as a philosopher, theologian, educator, author, and civil rights leader
10 continues today; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Thurman was born in a segregated Florida community in 1899,
12 became valedictorian of his class both at Morehouse College and at Rochester Theological
13 Seminary, and established a reputation as a thinker, teacher, and international lecturer; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Thurman became Dean of Rankin Chapel at Howard University and
15 later Dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University, the first African American dean at a
16 predominantly white university; and

17 WHEREAS, As part of a delegation to India, Burma, and Ceylon in 1935-1936, Dr.
18 Thurman and his wife, Sue Bailey Thurman, were the first African Americans to spend time
19 with Mohandas Gandhi and discuss with him the use of nonviolent resistance to effect social
20 change in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, Inspired by his conversation with Gandhi, Dr. Thurman accepted the
22 urgent invitation of San Francisco State University Professor and Presbyterian Pastor, Dr.
23 Alfred Fisk, to leave his prestigious career in academia and move to San Francisco in 1944 as
24 cofounding Pastor of The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco, the
25 nation's first avowedly interracial, interfaith congregation; and

1 WHEREAS, Fellowship Church became a worldwide model for interracial and interfaith
2 cooperation, a cornerstone of San Francisco’s cutting-edge reputation for social equity, and a
3 force against racial injustice and disparities which is still active today at 2041 Larkin Street;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. and Mrs. Thurman established the Howard Thurman Educational
6 Trust, with its office at 2020 Stockton Street, San Francisco, to fund research for literary,
7 religious, and scientific purposes and scholarships for African American students from
8 economically challenged families and communities; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Thurman authored twenty-two books in his lifetime which remain
10 influential among prominent civil rights, education, religious, and social service leaders -
11 including Jesus and the Disinherited, which was often carried by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.-
12 as well as among the general public; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to the memorials at Washington National Cathedral,
14 Morehouse College, and the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground at Boston
15 University, Dr. Thurman has been honored by a 1990 bronze sculpture above the entrance
16 to 235 Pine Street which commemorates citizens who have contributed significantly to San
17 Francisco’s history; and

18 WHEREAS, Life Magazine rated Dr. Thurman among the twelve most important
19 religious leaders in the United States, and Ebony Magazine called him one of the 50 most
20 important figures in African American history; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That in order to publicly recognize the legacy and contributions of Dr.
22 Howard Thurman, there shall be an honorary naming of “Dr. Howard Thurman Way” on
23 the 2020 Block of Stockton Street at the intersection of Stockton Street and Pfeiffer Street;
24 and, be it

25

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

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