

1 [Historic Street Signs in the Excelsior]

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3 **Resolution adding the original street names of “China,” “Japan,” and “India” to current**  
4 **street signs “Excelsior,” “Avalon,” and “Peru,” respectively, setting guidelines for the**  
5 **format of these signs, and making this addition permanent in the Excelsior District.**

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7 WHEREAS, Streets in the Excelsior district are named after prominent international  
8 countries such France, Italy, Persia, Brazil, and Russia; and

9 WHEREAS, Historic records show that the streets in the Excelsior District currently  
10 named “Excelsior,” “Avalon,” and “Peru” were originally named “China,” “Japan,” and “India,”  
11 respectively; and

12 WHEREAS, These historic records also show that these street names existed before  
13 1908; and

14 WHEREAS, By 1908, the streets named “China,” “Japan,” and “India” were the only  
15 three street names to be changed in the Excelsior neighborhood, and many believe that the  
16 changes reflected the racial prejudice of the time towards these countries and cultures; and

17 WHEREAS, These name changes do not honor or respect the diversity of the  
18 neighborhood today; and

19 WHEREAS, Including both the current and historical street name on the street signs  
20 creates a historic reference to how San Francisco was once designed and celebrates the  
21 cultures of these other countries; and

22 WHEREAS, The proposed street signs, that include both the current and previous  
23 name, will educate numerous people that pass by of this history; and

24 WHEREAS, Current plans are to change ten (10) street signs to include both historic  
25 and current street names, with plans to change more signs to include both street names in the

1 future, if funding becomes available; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Director of Transportation of  
3 the Municipal Transportation Agency to erect street signs indicating both the current and the  
4 historic names of the street, with the historic names, "China," "Japan," and "India" added to  
5 "Excelsior," "Avalon," and "Peru," respectively; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Transportation  
7 Code Section 2.2, requests the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to erect street  
8 signs indicating both the current and historic name of these streets, with the current name in  
9 large letters, and the historic name in smaller letters above or beneath the current street  
10 name; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That these new signs, which include both the current street  
12 name and the historic street name, shall remain posted permanently.

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