

1 [Establishment of the LGBTQ Leather Cultural District]

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3 **Resolution establishing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ)**
4 **Leather Cultural District with the intent of commemorating historical sites, preserving**
5 **existing spaces, and planning for thriving and vibrant communities that are LGBTQ**
6 **and Leather affirming.**

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8 WHEREAS, The boundaries of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer
9 (LGBTQ) Leather Cultural District (District) are defined as the south side of Howard between
10 7th Street and Highway 101, to the west side of 7th between Howard Street and Harrison
11 Street, to Interstate 80 between 7th Street and Division Street, to Highway 101 between
12 Interstate 80 and Howard Street; as well as the south side of Harrison Street between 7th
13 Street and Morris Street; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Park Service LGBTQ Initiative recognized multiple sites in
15 the LGBTQ Leather District as having significant historical value, including the End Up at 401
16 6th Street; Oasis at 298 11th Street, and the Sutro Baths at 1015 Folsom Street in the LGBT
17 community, the Club Baths at 201 8th Street; and the Stud Bar at 399 9th Street, the first
18 worker owned, cooperative nightclub in the country; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2013, the San Francisco Planning Department issued The Western
20 SoMa LGBTQ Social Heritage Proposal for Recognizing, Protecting, and Memorializing
21 South of Market LGBTQ Social Heritage Neighborhood Resources (“Proposal”) which
22 describes the LGBTQ Leather district as being a valuable and important part of local,
23 regional, and world history; and

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1 WHEREAS, In 2015, the San Francisco Planning Department issued the LGBTQ
2 Historic Context Statement (“Statement”) describing and uncovering the rich and multi-
3 layered LGBTQ history of the SoMa; and

4 WHEREAS, The Statement, and Proposal described the first LGBTQ Leather affirming
5 community event known as Megahood started in 1984 by a group of local activists led by
6 lesbian Kathleen Connell and gay Filipino American Michael Valerio to bring attention to
7 LGBTQ displacement caused by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, and to the AIDS
8 crisis which had a significant impact on SoMa, and which in its current incarnation is the
9 Folsom Street Fair, a yearly gathering that draws over 400,000 people to San Francisco to
10 celebrate Leather, and is the third largest outdoor event in California; and the Up Your Alley
11 Fair, which began on Ringold Alley but now takes place on Dore Alley that celebrates the
12 LGBTQ leather community in SoMa; and

13 WHEREAS, The Statement and Proposal outline the rich artistic and publishing history
14 of the Leather District, including: Fey-Way Studios at 1287 Harrison, which was the first
15 gallery to showcase gay male art in San Francisco; the home of photographer and writer Jim
16 Stewart at 766 Clementina which served as a salon, gallery space, and headquarters for
17 Keyhole Studios an LGBTQ photography publication; The Bay Area Reporter, a LGBT
18 weekly newspaper which featured a column by Leatherman Marcus Hernandez, and played
19 a significant role in reporting on the AIDS crisis; LGBT newspaper The Bay Times at 288 7th
20 Street; Brush Creek Media at 367 9th Street which became national magazine supporting
21 bear culture; and unique local industries built around the manufacturing and sale of leather
22 goods, clothing and accessories including Mr. S. Leather the internationally known leather
23 goods store founded by Alan Selby at 227 7th Street and 308-310 7th Street; A Taste of
24 Leather at 1501 Folsom Street; Worn Out West at 1158 Howard Street, Stormy Leather at
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1 1158 Howard Street; Taylor of San Francisco at 768 Clementina Street; Leather Etc. at 1201
2 Folsom Street; and

3 WHEREAS, The Statement, and Proposal outline that LGBTQ community has
4 frequently relied on night-life spaces as the centers of community-building and the SoMa
5 area have been a hub of gay nightlife from the 1960's to the present, and the District seeks to
6 reestablish SoMa as a major destination for LGBTQ nightlife, and will seek to preserve,
7 revitalize, or reopen the District's historic venues, theaters, bars, cafes, and clubs including:
8 Febe's at 1501 Howard Street, which featured the famous statue called "Leather David"
9 created by gay artist Mike Caffee; The Ambush at 1351 Harrison Street, which displayed the
10 work of local queer artists; Arena at 399 9th Street; the Bay Brick Inn, a lesbian bar at 1190
11 Folsom Street; The Black and Blue at 198 8th Street; Boot Camp at 1010 Bryant Street;
12 Casey's Frontier at 1145 Folsom Street; The Cave at 280 7th Street; Rawhide II at 280 7th
13 Street; Chaps at 375 11th Street; Chaps II at 1225 Folsom Street; Cissy's Saloon at 1590
14 Folsom Street; Drummer Club at 298 11th Street; the Red Star Saloon at 1145 Folsom
15 Street; Leatherneck at 280 11th Street; the Lumber Yard at 979 Folsom Street; the Brig at
16 1347 Folsom Street; the Ramrod at 1225 Folsom Street; the Stables at 1123 Folsom Street;
17 the Warehouse at 333 11th Street; The Bolt at 1347 Folsom Street; The Covered Wagon at
18 280 11th Street; Dirty Sally's at 280 11th Street; the Gold Coast at 280 11th Street; The End
19 Up at 401 Sixth Street; No Name at 1347 Folsom Street; the Drummaster/Drummer Key Club
20 280 at 11th Street; the Compound at 280 11th Street; Mack at 317 Tenth Street; My Place at
21 1225 Folsom Street; Hamburger Mary's at 1582 Folsom Street; the Canary Island Diner at
22 1270 Harrison Street; Wicked Grounds at 289 8th Street; Blowbuddies at 933 Harrison; The
23 Lone Star Saloon at 1354 Harrison Street; the SF Eagle at 398 12th Street; the Hole in the
24 Wall Saloon at 1369 Folsom Street; the Powerhouse at 1347 Folsom Street; Oasis at 280
25 11th Street; and

1 WHEREAS, Leather have been based in SoMa since the 1960's, creating community
2 and raising money for LGBT charities, including groups such as: The National Leather
3 Association at 1250 Folsom Street; Templar Hall at 1127 Folsom Street; Service of Mankind
4 Church at 367 12th Street; the San Francisco Leather Alliance; Dykes on Bikes; the Center
5 for Sex and Culture; The Exiles; The 15; The Society of Janus; the Leathermen's Discussion
6 Group; SF girls of Leather; BLUF SF (the Breaches and Leather Uniform Fanclub); Bay Area
7 Kinky Business Alliance; Ms. SF Leather & Mr. SF Leather; the Golden Gate Guards; Legion
8 of Sin; Bears of SF; and

9 WHEREAS, Many LGBT persons, especially gay men, sought refuge in bathhouses
10 that thrived in SoMa until the San Francisco Health Department's forcible shut-down of all
11 bathhouses in SoMa, including The Folsom Street Barracks at 1147 Folsom, which featured
12 murals by leatherman Chuck Arnett; The Plunge at 280 11th Street; The Slot at 979 Folsom;
13 The Hotel at 973/975 Folsom Street; Handball Express at 973 Folsom, the Sutro Baths at
14 1015 Folsom, the Club Baths/Eighth and Howard at 201 8th Street; The Folsom Street Club
15 at 1389 Folsom Street; 890 Folsom at 890 Folsom Street; the Hothouse at 374 5th Street;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, There is a growing population of LGBTQ Seniors in San Francisco, who
18 at times face social isolation and discrimination in accessing care, housing, and assisted
19 living facilities and would benefit from intentional community spaces and may continue to;
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21 WHEREAS, SoMa has one of the highest concentration of people living with HIV in
22 the united states; and SoMa leather bars were the site of many of the first fundraising and
23 organizing efforts to address the AIDS crisis and served as an important space for the
24 education of LGBTQ people on sexual health and AIDS, and as SoMa LGBTQ businesses,
25 organizations, and venues were disproportionately affected by the AIDS crisis; and

1 WHEREAS, Today there is a vibrant LGBTQ community in SoMa which has served as
2 a refuge in particular for LGBTQ seniors and people living with HIV; and while the District will
3 memorialize the LGBTQ leather and nightlife history of the SoMa area, it also seeks to
4 concentrate the District within the aforementioned boundaries in order to create a safe, and
5 supportive neighborhood for LGBTQ Seniors and people living with HIV and to provide them
6 with affordable housing and culturally competent services and care; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
8 (hereinafter "the Board") establishes the District to preserve and further develop the SoMa
9 area's past, present, and future manifestation of LGBTQ leather communities and resources,
10 recognize the historical and present contributions of the community and neighborhood, to
11 specifically preserve and further develop LGBTQ nightlife and commercial corridors within
12 the boundaries of the district, and to specifically preserve and develop housing, services, and
13 health care for LGBTQ Seniors and people living with HIV, and to maintain and further
14 develop public installations commemorating the history of the District such as the Ringold
15 Alley Historic Installation, Eagle Plaza and a Leather History Museum; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor's Office of
17 Housing and Community Development ("MOHCD") and the Historic Preservation
18 Commission ("HPC") along with the Office of Economic Workforce Development ("OEWD"),
19 and the District working group consisting of members of the community representing the
20 following sectors: residents, historical preservationists, arts and cultural workers, small
21 business owners and employees, club promoters and nightlife experts, housing and tenant
22 advocates, LGBTQ advocates, land use, social and health services, and city department and
23 other local agency staff to develop a Leather District Cultural Heritage and Economic
24 Sustainability Strategy ("LCHES") to set policies that promote community development and
25 stabilization, and increase the presence and visibility of the District; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, Other city departments and other bodies may be requested
2 to be part of the strategic planning of the District, including but not limited to: Department of
3 Public Health; Department of Homelessness; Aging and Adult Services Commission; Small
4 Business Commission; San Francisco Arts Commission; Department of Human Services;
5 Department of Aging and Adult Services; Department of Children, Youth and their Families;
6 Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure; Department of Building Inspection,
7 Department of Public Works; Entertainment Commission, and Park and Recreation
8 Department; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That such strategic plan for the LGBTQ Leather District be
10 developed by the working group in conjunction from the above listed government bodies be
11 submitted to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors within 12 months of
12 adoption of this Resolution; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board commends the effort of the LGBTQ Leather
14 community in working towards the creation of the LGBTQ Leather District that will contribute
15 to the well-being of the LGBTQ community in the City and County of San Francisco.
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