

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mohammed Nuru, Director, Public Works
Tom DeCaigny, Director of Cultural Affairs, Arts Commission
Susan Pontious, Director of Public Art Program, Arts Commission

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Clerk
Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: July 25, 2018

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Peskin on July 17, 2018:

File No. 180758

Resolution authorizing the placement of a street plaque commemorating Tina Modotti at the sidewalk of her family home at 1952 Taylor Street, in accordance with Public Works Code, Sections 789, et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, and accepting the named plaque as a gift to the City and County of San Francisco from the Tina Modotti Committee.

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: alisa.somera@sfgov.org.

c: David Steinberg, Public Works
Jeremy Spitz, Public Works
Jennifer Blot, Public Works
John Thomas, Public Works
Lena Liu, Public Works
Rebekah Krell, Arts Commission
Sharon Paige Ritchie, Arts Commission

1 [Commemorative Street Plaque - Tina Modotti - 1952 Taylor Street]

2
3 **Resolution authorizing the placement of a street plaque commemorating Tina Modotti**
4 **at the sidewalk of her family home at 1952 Taylor Street, in accordance with Public**
5 **Works Code, Sections 789, et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, and**
6 **accepting the named plaque as a gift to the City and County of San Francisco from the**
7 **Tina Modotti Committee.**

8
9 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti, born in Udine in the Friuli district of Italy, emigrated to the
10 United States in 1913 and settled in her family home in North Beach, located at 1952 Taylor
11 Street; and

12 WHEREAS, Through various roles in popular amateur theatre clubs of San Francisco,
13 Tina Modotti launched her stage career and became a famed actress in the Italian theatre and
14 light opera in the Italian-American district of North Beach, such that her performance have
15 been well-documented in the prominent Italian-language newspaper, L'Italia; and

16 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti who was profoundly influenced by her father's frequent
17 Socialist and trade unionist gatherings and political conversations at their family home and in
18 the neighborhood at large, used her stage prowess to raise fund for Red Cross activities in
19 Italy during WWI; and

20 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti's work was deeply rooted in the Socialist movement after
21 having worked alongside mentor and creative partner Edward Weston in Mexico, and
22 ultimately became the photographer of choice for the blossoming Mexican mural movement,
23 documenting the works of Jose Clemente Orozco and Diego Rivera; and

24 WHEREAS, Driven by her political beliefs, Tina Modotti travelled across the world on
25 missions with the International Worker's Relief organizations, managing hospital operations

1 and tending the wounded under extreme battlefield conditions during the Spanish Civil War;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti was a celebrated photographer, documentarian, model,
4 actress, and revolutionary political activist, who had been deeply influenced by the
5 community in North Beach and San Francisco from 1913 through 1918; and

6 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti's work are celebrated by prestigious institutions, including the
7 Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, George Eastman House
8 in Rochester; and

9 WHEREAS, Tina Modotti once said that she had "always considered San Francisco her
10 city of adoption" as expressed in a January 23, 1926, letter to Edward Weston; and

11 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution commending Tina Modotti
12 as a woman of significance in the history of San Francisco; a copy of which is on file with the
13 Clerk of Board of Supervisors in File No. 081407; and

14 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors declares its intent to place a commemorative
15 street plaque on the sidewalk at 1952 Taylor Street; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors accepts a commemoratives plaque in
17 honor of Tina Modotti as a gift to the City and County of San Francisco from the Tina Modotti
18 Committee; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Public
20 Works Code, Section 789, et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, authorizes
21 the placement of plaque on the sidewalk of 1952 Taylor Street; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to add
23 aforementioned plaque at the aforementioned location on the City's Official list of
24 commemorative sites effective immediately from the date of passage of this Resolution.
25