

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
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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: May 1, 2019

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Peskin on April 23, 2019:

File No. 190439

Ordinance approving the Tina Modotti commemorative plaque to be installed on the sidewalk in the vicinity of 1952 Taylor Street; waiving the Public Works hearing under the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance in the Public Works Code; accepting the plaque in honor of Tina Modotti as a gift to the City; directing official acts in furtherance of this Ordinance, as defined herein; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

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: erica.major@sfgov.org.

c: Rebekah Krell, Arts Commission
Sharon Page Ritchie, Arts Commission

1 [Tina Modotti Commemorative Plaque - 1952 Taylor Street]

2
3 **Ordinance approving the Tina Modotti commemorative plaque to be installed on the**
4 **sidewalk in the vicinity of 1952 Taylor Street; waiving the Public Works hearing under**
5 **the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance in the Public Works Code; accepting the**
6 **plaque in honor of Tina Modotti as a gift to the City; directing official acts in**
7 **furtherance of this Ordinance, as defined herein; and affirming the Planning**
8 **Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

9 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
10 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
11 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
12 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
13 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
14 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
15 subsections or parts of tables.

16 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

17 Section 1. Commemoration of Tina Modotti.

18 (a) Tina Modotti, born in Udine in the Friuli district of Italy, emigrated to the United
19 States in 1913, and settled in her family home, located at 1952 Taylor Street, in what was
20 then the Italian-American district of North Beach.

21 (b) Through various roles in popular amateur theatre clubs of San Francisco, Tina
22 Modotti launched her stage career and became a famed actress in the Italian theatre and light
23 opera district in North Beach, such that her performances were well-documented in the
24 prominent Italian-language newspaper, L'Italia.

25 (c) Tina Modotti, who was profoundly influenced by her father's frequent Socialist and
trade unionist gatherings and political conversations at their family home and in the

1 neighborhood at large, used her stage prowess to raise funds for Red Cross activities in Italy
2 during World War I.

3 (d) Tina Modotti's work was deeply rooted in the Socialist movement, after having
4 worked alongside mentor and creative partner Edward Weston in Mexico. Ms. Modotti
5 ultimately became the photographer of choice for the blossoming Mexican mural movement,
6 documenting the works of Jose Clemente Orozco and Diego Rivera.

7 (e) Driven by her political beliefs, Tina Modotti travelled across the world on missions
8 with the International Workers' Relief organizations, managing hospital operations and tending
9 the wounded under extreme battlefield conditions during the Spanish Civil War.

10 (f) Tina Modotti was a celebrated photographer, documentarian, model, actress, and
11 revolutionary political activist, whose brilliant career was deeply influenced by her early
12 experiences in the North Beach community and San Francisco from 1913 through 1918.

13 (g) Tina Modotti's works are celebrated and shown at prestigious institutions, including
14 the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the New York Museum of Modern Art, the
15 Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY.

16 (h) Tina Modotti once said that she had "always considered San Francisco her city of
17 adoption" as expressed in a January 23, 1926 letter to Edward Weston.

18 (i) In 2008, the City adopted Resolution No. 479-08 commending Tina Modotti as a
19 woman of significance in the artistic and cultural history of San Francisco and characterizing
20 her as an intendent, liberated woman of incredible talent, intelligence, and social commitment.

21 (j) The Board of Supervisors supports the placement of a commemorative street
22 plaque in honor of Tina Modotti on the sidewalk in the vicinity of Ms. Modotti's home at 1952
23 Taylor Street.

24
25 Section 2. Findings.

1 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this
2 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources
3 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
4 Supervisors in File No. _____ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board
5 affirms this determination.

6 (b) This ordinance generally conforms with the process and procedures of Public
7 Works Code Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance.

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9 Section 3. Approval of Commemorative Street Plaque.

10 (a) In accordance with Public Works Code Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative
11 Street Plaque Ordinance, the Board of Supervisors, in recognition of the civic contributions of
12 Tina Modotti, hereby approves the placement of a commemorative plaque in her honor on the
13 sidewalk in the vicinity of 1952 Taylor Street, Ms. Modotti's home.

14 (b) Waiver of a Public Works Hearing.

15 Notwithstanding any contrary provision of Public Works Code Sections 789 et seq., the
16 Board of Supervisors hereby waives the Public Works hearing on the application for the Tina
17 Modotti commemorative plaque.

18
19 Section 4. Gift Acceptance.

20 (a) The Tina Modotti Heritage Committee shall install the Tina Modotti commemorative
21 plaque and has graciously offered the installed plaque as a gift to San Francisco.

22 (b) The Board of Supervisors accepts the commemorative plaque as a gift to the City
23 and County of San Francisco, provided that the acceptance shall be conditioned upon the
24 plaque's installation and approval of the plaque design by the Civic Design Review Committee
25 of the Arts Commission.

1 Section 5. Official Actions Directed.

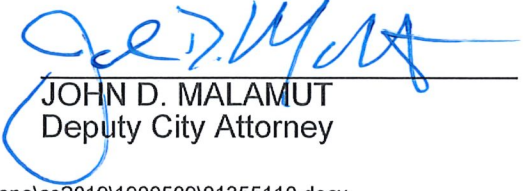
2 (a) The Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to take all actions necessary to
3 implement the intent of this ordinance, including approval of the installation of the
4 aforementioned plaque, which shall be conditioned upon approval of the Civic Design Review
5 Committee of the Arts Commission.

6 (b) The Board of Supervisors directs San Francisco Public Works to add the subject
7 sidewalk and plaque to the Official City Map of commemorative sites.

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9 Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after
10 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the
11 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
12 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

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14
15 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
16 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

17 By:


18 JOHN D. MALAMUT
19 Deputy City Attorney

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Tina Modotti Commemorative Plaque - 1952 Taylor Street]

Ordinance approving the Tina Modotti commemorative plaque to be installed on the sidewalk in the vicinity of 1952 Taylor Street; waiving the Public Works hearing under the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance in the Public Works Code; accepting the plaque in honor of Tina Modotti as a gift to the City; directing official acts in furtherance of this Ordinance, as defined herein; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Public Works Code Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, governs the review and approval process for commemorative street plaques.

Amendments to Current Law

In recognition of the civic contributions of Tina Modotti as a woman of significance in the artistic and cultural history of San Francisco, this ordinance would approve the placement of a commemorative plaque in her honor on the sidewalk in the vicinity of 1952 Taylor Street, Ms. Modotti's home. This legislation would waive certain requirements of Public Works Code Sections 789 et seq. in regard to the plaque. This ordinance would accept as a gift to the City the installed plaque from the Tina Modotti Heritage Committee and would make environmental findings.

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