

1 [Resolution of Intention - Street Name Change - Willow Street between Buchanan Street and
2 Laguna Street to Earl Gage Jr. Street]

3 **Resolution declaring the intention of the Board of Supervisors to change the street**
4 **name of Willow Street, between Buchanan Street and Laguna Street to Earl Gage Jr.**
5 **Street, to honor Earl Gage Jr.'s legacy and impact on the San Francisco firefighting**
6 **community.**

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8 WHEREAS, "Willow Street" is the name of the public right-of-way between Buchanan
9 Street and Laguna Street and, for the purposes of this Resolution, shall refer only to that
10 section of Willow Street located between Buchanan Street and Laguna street; and

11 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Black Firefighters Association, a chapter of the
12 fraternal organization of firefighters' known as the International Association of Black
13 Professional Fire Fighters, has formally requested the City to rename Willow Street to honor
14 Earl Gage Jr.; and

15 WHEREAS, Earl Gage Jr. moved to San Francisco in 1945, graduated from UC
16 Berkeley, was drafted into the Army, married in 1952 and was a devoted fan of the San
17 Francisco 49ers; and

18 WHEREAS, Earl Gage Jr. was at the time of his hiring by the San Francisco Fire
19 Department in 1955, the first black firefighter in San Francisco and remained the City's only
20 black firefighter until 1967; and

21 WHEREAS, Prior to his retirement from the San Francisco Fire Department in 1983,
22 Earl Gage Jr. served as the director of community services and enacted a series of forward-
23 thinking projects to increase racial diversity within the Department and consistently worked to
24 equitably improve the Fire Department's recruitment and integration processes; and

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1 WHEREAS, Earl Gage Jr. passed away on July 30, 2017, at the age of 90 and was, at
2 the time of his death, survived by his daughter, Blondell Chism; his sister, Earline Daniels; a
3 brother, Thomas Gage, and numerous grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends to rename the section of Willow
6 Street between Buchanan Street and Laguna Street to “Earl Gage Jr. Street” in order to
7 enshrine the legacy of San Francisco’s first black firefighter and to permanently commemorate
8 his battle for civil rights in San Francisco; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to initiate
10 the City’s street renaming procedures, expeditiously process the required actions related to
11 street renaming, coordinate with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors’ Office regarding
12 posted and published notice for the street renaming, report to the board on its findings so that
13 the Board may officially rename the section of Willow Street between Buchanan Street and
14 Laguna Street.

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