

1 [Street Name Change - From "Willow Street" between Buchanan Street and Laguna Street to
2 "Earl Gage Jr. Street"]

3 **Resolution renaming Willow Street, between Buchanan Street and Laguna Street, to**
4 **"Earl Gage Jr. Street," to honor Earl Gage Jr.'s legacy and impact on the San Francisco**
5 **Firefighting Community.**

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

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Black Firefighter's Association, a chapter of the
11 fraternal organization of firefighters' known as the International Association of, has formally
12 requested the City to rename Willow Street to honor Earl Gage Jr.; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Prior to his retirement from the San Francisco Fire Department in 1983,
17 Earl Gage Jr. served as the director of community services and enacted a series of forward-
18 thinking policies to increase racial diversity within the Fire Department and consistently
19 worked to generally improve and make more equitable the Fire Department's recruitment and
20 integration processes; and

21 WHEREAS, Earl Gage Jr. passed away on July 30, 2017, at the age of 90 and was, at
22 the time of his death, survived by his daughter, Blondell Chism; his sister, Earline Daniels; a
23 brother, Thomas Gage, and numerous grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews; and

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

4 WHEREAS, Supervisor Dean Preston's office, after conducting extensive community
5 outreach starting in February 2020 and consulting Willow Street's residents, property owners,
6 nearby schools, local businesses and community stakeholders, found virtually no opposition
7 to this proposed name change; and

8 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Works, in full compliance, with its regulations on
9 street name changes, conducted its investigation on a street name change for Willow Street
10 between May 10, 2020, and June 22, 2020; results of such investigation are on file with the
11 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 200271, and are incorporated herein by
12 reference; and

13 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors recognizes that the Department of Public
14 Works, on behalf of the City, has taken all necessary actions to effect this name change,
15 including fully complying with regulations regarding street name changes under California
16 Streets and Highways Code, Section 970.5, which requires posted notice on the street for at
17 least 10 days prior to the Board of Supervisors hearing on this resolution, Public Works Code,
18 1 Section 423, California Government Code, Section 34091.1, and California Streets and
19 Highways Code, Sections 970.5 and 5026; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby changes the name of Willow Street,
21 between Buchannan Street and Laguna Street to "Earl Gage Jr. Street" to recognize San
22 Francisco's first black firefighter and his influence as a local civil rights leader and icon; and,
23 be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors in accordance with
25 Transportation Code, Section 2.2, directs the Municipal Transportation Agency to prepare

1 street signs indicating both the new and former names of the street, with the new name "Earl
2 Gage Jr. Street" in large letters, and the old name "Willow Street" in smaller letters above or
3 beneath the new name; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That both of the street names shall remain posted on street
5 signs for five years, and then the street signs shall be replaced with signs indicating only the
6 new street name, "Earl Gage Jr. Street;" and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That in adopting this legislation, the Board of Supervisors
8 does not intend to effectuate any change in City department jurisdictional control over the
9 subject portion of "Willow Street" to be known as "Earl Gage Jr. Street"; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
11 to promptly forward a copy of this Resolution to the County Surveyor in accordance with
12 California Streets and Highways Code, Section 5026, and that the County Surveyor include
13 the new street name on the Official Map of the City.

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