File No. 211016

Committee Item No. _____ Board Item No. 47

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Date:

Date: September 28, 2021

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Prepared by:	Lisa Lew	Date:	September 24, 2021
Prepared by:		Date:	

FILE NO. 211016

RESOLUTION NO.

1	[Naming the San Francisco City Hall Press Room "The Barbara A. Taylor Press Room"]
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3	Resolution naming the San Francisco City Hall press room, in its current and any
4	future location, "The Barbara A. Taylor Press Room," in honor of legendary reporter
5	Barbara Ann Taylor (1947 - 2020), whose significant contributions to journalism and
6	San Francisco civic life while serving as the KCBS City Hall bureau chief for more than
7	30 years have set the standard for integrity and professionalism.
8	
9	WHEREAS, The San Francisco City Hall press room, currently located in Room 247
10	and unnamed, serves as the home base for reporters and visiting journalists covering San
11	Francisco civic matters, policy, and politics; and
12	WHEREAS, Barbara Ann Taylor served as San Francisco City Hall bureau chief for
13	KCBS Radio for more than 30 years, covering City Hall politics across seven different mayoral
14	administrations, until her retirement in 2015, which earned her the mantel of "Dean of the City
15	Hall Press Corps"; and
16	WHEREAS, Barbara Taylor leveraged her experience as a political reporter to also co-
17	write the Insider column and opinion pieces for the Hearst-owned San Francisco Examiner
18	and to serve as on-air host for the televised weekly City Desk News; and
19	WHEREAS, Barbara Taylor adeptly and incisively covered the biggest news stories of
20	her time with a skilled professionalism that set the standard for countless journalists, including
21	the shocking assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk and the
22	Jonestown massacre, which changed the course of politics in San Francisco; the Loma Prieta
23	earthquake, the largest natural disaster to strike the City in over 80 years; and San
24	Francisco's groundbreaking and revolutionary issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex
25	couples, paving the way for legalizing gay marriage; and

WHEREAS, Utilizing her fearlessness, tenacity, street smarts and gut instincts,
Barbara Taylor ferreted out stories and cut through the codswallop, providing her listeners
with news stories that were relevant, accurate, balanced and timely, which ultimately earned
her numerous awards for her news coverage, both as an individual reporter and as a member
of a team unit, among them the Peabody and Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University awards
and six national Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) "Edward R. Murrow"
awards for overall excellence; and

8 WHEREAS, At once empathetic and hard-hitting in her beat reporting, Barbara Taylor 9 threaded her stories with human interest, fairness and profound integrity, earning the respect 10 of her subjects and colleagues alike, and becoming a role model and subject matter expert 11 even to her competitors wise enough to watch and learn from the best in the business; and 12 WHEREAS, Barbara Taylor, for a time accompanied by her canine companion, Tanner, 13 held court in her City Hall press room office and recording studio, hosting a steady stream of 14 elected officials, legislative aides, City Hall flaks, lobbyists, activists, political gadflies and

15 bureaucrats eager to get their say on the stories she was working on; and

WHEREAS, When politicians tried to avoid being peppered with pointed questions or her dogged inquiries, Barbara Taylor knew where to track them down, lying in wait with microphone in hand by their parked car, on a back staircase, or at their favorite after-hours (or lunchtime) watering hole; and

WHEREAS, A consummate beat reporter, Barbara Taylor knew when to hold tight to information given to her in confidence, when to use it for background and when to roll it out, earning her the trust of valuable sources, which ultimately benefitted her listeners, viewers and readers, who came to depend on her ability to competently and confidently report the news with context and authority, often in real time; and

25

1	WHEREAS, After diligently reporting on the work and words of seven mayors and
2	dozens of supervisors, as well as covering tens of thousands of hours of public meetings,
3	thousands of press conferences and hundreds of public protests, Barbara Taylor had one of
4	the longest tenures of any individual consistently working under the City Hall dome, recording
5	history as it unfolded; now, therefore, be it
6	RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
7	does hereby name the San Francisco City Hall press room, in its current and any future
8	location, "The Barbara A. Taylor Press Room", in honor of legendary reporter Barbara Ann
9	Taylor (1947 - 2020), whose significant contributions to journalism and San Francisco civic life
10	while serving as the KCBS City Hall bureau chief for more than 30 years have set the
11	standard for integrity and professionalism.
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Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor Time stamp or meeting date I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one): 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment). 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee. 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee. 4. Request for letter beginning :"Supervisor inquiries" 5. City Attorney Request. 6. Call File No. from Committee. 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion). 8. Substitute Legislation File No. 9. Reactivate File No. 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following: Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission Ethics Commission Building Inspection Commission Planning Commission Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form. Sponsor(s): Supervisor Peskin; Mandelman, Chan, Melgar, Safai, Safai, Ronen, Preston, and Stefani Subject: [Naming the San Francisco City Hall Press Room "The Barbara A. Taylor Press Room"] The text is listed: Resolution naming the San Francisco City Hall press room, in its current and any future location, "The Barbara A. Taylor Press Room", in honor of legendary reporter Barbara Ann Taylor (1947 – 2020), whose significant contributions to journalism and San Francisco civic life while serving as the KCBS City Hall bureau chief for more than 30 years have set the standard for integrity and professionalism. Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

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