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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**SUPERVISORS CALL FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND
REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR TWIN PEAKS LOOKOUT**

Resolution calls on City Departments to develop long-term plan to bring imaginative amenities and capital investments to improve safety and cleanliness of the popular destination

SAN FRANCISCO— Supervisors Myrna Melgar, Rafael Mandelman and Board President Shamann Walton introduced legislation today calling on the Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Real Estate, Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA), and Department of Public Works to work collaboratively on a long-term plan and strategy to revitalize the Twin Peaks Lookout.

Twin Peaks encompasses over 30 acres of natural open space and offers views of San Francisco and the Bay and connections to trail networks that have improved upon over the years. During the past several years, there have been a number of efforts to offer traffic calming to the location, but has been contentious with neighboring residents. As a popular tourist site, there have been growing complaints of property crimes, including car break-ins, burglaries, and violent incidents including deadly shootings in 2016 and 2017.

In 2020, Twin Peaks was closed to vehicles during the Shelter-in-Place order to offer more open, recreational space, but also sparked controversy to due to the spike in traffic, property crime, loitering, and vandalism impacting the neighboring areas. SFMTA conducted a community survey and offered a recommendation for street closure changes with a deadline for feedback by February 5, 2021. Despite the many interagency projects focused on traffic flow, trail connection, and nature conservation, there has not been a focused attempt to revitalize Twin Peaks' lookout itself by investing in amenities and resources to make it more inviting to visitors, improving safety, visibility, and a sense of place.

“Over the years, conversations surrounding Twin Peaks shed light on an opportunity to really embrace this worldwide attraction. I want the Twin Peaks' lookout to be similar to Land's End where locals and visitors feel welcomed, safe, and are able to enjoy the breathtaking views. As San Francisco enters recovery, investment in our open spaces and tourist attractions will be essential to revitalize our economy. We need to breathe new life into Twin Peaks -- imagine vibrant public art, a warming hut, coffee shop, a welcoming station for visitors— all part of this beloved destination. We have to start somewhere. I also believe this bigger plan would not only help to deter crime, but build a more positive rapport with the surrounding communities by giving them solutions they can be part of and something they can be proud of as San Franciscans,” stated Supervisor Melgar who represents District 7 where Twin Peaks is located.

“Twin Peaks is a San Francisco treasure. I look forward to working with Supervisor Melgar, neighbors and stakeholders on a long-term plan that keeps Twin Peaks welcoming and safe while making it even more accessible to San Franciscans and visitors from around the world,” stated Supervisor Rafael Mandelman whose District abuts Twin Peaks.

The legislation calls for the Departments to develop a plan and strategy involving community stakeholders, State and Federal agency partners on this long-term revitalization project.

“Clearly, a different approach is needed. For years, this cherished, historic place has been allowed to deteriorate as multiple City departments act independent from one another, from a shared vision for the space and most importantly from those of us who live here. Like the rest of open, public and park destinations in San Francisco, Twin Peaks has been plagued by car break-ins, graffiti, illegal dumping and littering, other crimes, and pandemic road closures. Seniors, elders, tourists and others have lost access to one of San Francisco’s must-see experiences. Any coordination, and consultation with neighbors and competent leadership and thinking will undoubtedly be a step in the right direction to restore and enhance Twin Peaks – I look forward to any effort respecting our neighborhood and recognizing Twin Peaks as the international, national and local treasure that it is,” stated Denise LaPointe, long-time Twin Peaks resident and delegate to West of Twin Peaks Central Council.

The Resolution will be scheduled for a Committee hearing in February.

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