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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Prior to his retirement from the San Francisco Fire Department in 1983, Earl Gage Jr. served as the director of community services and enacted a series of forward-thinking projects to increase racial diversity within the Department and consistently worked to equitably improve the Fire Department’s recruitment and integration processes; and
WHEREAS, Earl Gage Jr. passed away on July 30, 2017, at the age of 90 and was, at
the time of his death, survived by his daughter, Blondell Chism; his sister, Earline Daniels; a
brother, Thomas Gage, and numerous grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews; now,
therefore, be it

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to initiate
the City’s street renaming procedures, expeditiously process the required actions related to
street renaming, coordinate with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors’ Office regarding
posted and published notice for the street renaming, report to the board on its findings so that
the Board may officially rename the section of Willow Street between Buchanan Street and
Laguna Street.
Resolution declaring the intention of the Board of Supervisors to change the street name of Willow Street, between Buchanan Street and Laguna Street to Earl Gage Jr. Street, to honor Earl Gage Jr.’s legacy and impact on the San Francisco firefighting community.

April 20, 2020 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED

April 28, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/28/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board