Resolution initiating the approval process for the installation of plaques by the fire hydrants at 3899-20th Street, the northwest corner of Hayes Street and Buchanan Street, and the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue, to commemorate them as the few working fire hydrants in San Francisco during the fire of 1906, and for thwarting the spread of fires from reaching the historic Mission District and the City’s western region.

WHEREAS, The earthquake of April 18th, 1906 sparked the largest fire in San Francisco history and devastated much of San Francisco’s infrastructure, including its emergency water systems; and

WHEREAS, The fire hydrants at 3899-20th Street, the Northwest Corner of Hayes Street and Buchanan Street, and the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue, were found as some of the few operational hydrants in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The hydrant at 3899-20th Street, later named “The Little Giant,” was found by Engine Co. 7 and later joined by Engine Co.’s 10, 19, 21, 25, and 27, who used the hydrant’s constant flow to prevent the fire from reaching the Mission District; and

WHEREAS, The hydrants at Hayes and Buchanan and Ellis and Van Ness, later named “The Silver Twins,” were found by Engine Co.’s 2, 14, 21, 23, and 34, who used the hydrants’ constant flow to prevent the fire from reaching the Western Addition and San Francisco’s general western region; and

WHEREAS, The Little Giant and The Silver Twins are celebrated annually by San Francisco residents, who paint the hydrants and leave flowers by them on the anniversary of the 1906 fire; and
WHEREAS, Mayor Joe Alioto gave permission for The Little Giant to remain gold throughout the year to honor its extraordinary contribution to San Francisco and the Mission District; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares its intent to initiate the process in accordance with Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, for installation of a commemorative plaque honoring and recognizing the history of The Little Giant at 3899-20th Street; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares its intent to initiate the process in accordance with Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, for installation of a commemorative plaque honoring and recognizing the history of The Silver Twin at the northwest corner of Hayes Street and Buchanan Street; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares its intent to initiate the process in accordance with Public Works Code, Sections 789 et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, for installation of a commemorative plaque honoring and recognizing the history of The Silver Twin at the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Public Works to work with the District 5 Supervisor and the District 8 Supervisor, local neighborhood organizations, and other interested parties, to provide commemorative plaques, expeditiously process such request, and return to the Board for final action on the commemorative street plaques.
Resolution initiating the approval process for the installation of plaques by the fire hydrants at 3899-20th Street, the northwest corner of Hayes Street and Buchanan Street, and the northwest corner of Ellis Street and Van Ness Avenue, to commemorate them as the few working fire hydrants in San Francisco during the fire of 1906, and for thwarting the spread of fires from reaching the historic Mission District and the City's western region.

June 10, 2019 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED

June 18, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

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

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/18/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor