Resolution establishing the SoMa Pilipinas - Filipino Cultural Heritage District in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, The South of Market neighborhood ("SoMa") is home to the largest concentrations of Filipinos in San Francisco and is a cultural center of the regional Filipino community; and

WHEREAS, The Filipino community has deep roots that are embedded within the institutions, events and experiences of the Filipino community living in SoMa; and

WHEREAS, Filipino culture is a critical part of the SoMa community's diversity, strength and resilience; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2010 Census, the Filipino population has grown to become the largest Asian American population in the state, totaling 1,474,707 persons, with 43% of all Filipinos in the U.S. live in California; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is known to be one of the most diverse population of immigrants in the nation, having certified Tagalog as its third official language in 2014, and according to the 2010 Census there are 36,347 Filipinos in the City of which 5,106 reside in District 6 clustered in the SoMa Pilipinas area; and

WHEREAS, SoMa Pilipinas - Filipino Cultural Heritage District (hereinafter "SoMa Pilipinas") is home to Filipinos who have been an integral part of the City's cultural richness, economic prosperity and historical significance; and

WHEREAS, The boundaries of the SoMa Pilipinas - Filipino Cultural Heritage District shall be the area bound by 2nd Street to the East, 11th Street to the West, Market Street to
the North and Brannan Street to the South, as identified in the Western SoMa Community Plan which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, SoMa Pilipinas shall include the I-Hotel, Gran Oriente, Rizal Apartments, the Iloilo Circle building, and surrounding areas including Rizal Street and Lapu Lapu Street, because of the historic and cultural significance associated with these buildings and areas; and

WHEREAS, SoMa Pilipinas' boundary demarcates the area with the highest visibility of Filipino cultural landmarks including the San Francisco Filipino Cultural Center and the Bayanihan Cultural Center, businesses, institutions, residences, places of worship, buildings, activities, organizations including Filipina Women’s Network, Filipino Community Center, kularts, Keanry Street Workshop, Veterans Equity Center, West Bay Pilipino Center and important Filipino cultural activities including the FAAE/Pistahan Parade and Festival, the Parol Festival, Kulinarya and the New Filipino Cinema at Yerba Buena; and

WHEREAS, SoMa is today home to such landmarks as Bessie Carmichael School/Filipino Education Center, the nation’s first and only elementary school with a curriculum in the Filipino language, , Victoria Manalo Draves Park, the first park named after a Filipino American Olympic champion, the Gran Oriente Filipino Masonic Temple, the seven-story Lipi Ni Lapu Lapu mural at the San Lorenzo Luis Center and several streets named for important figures in Filipino history including Bonifacio, Lapu Lapu, Mabini, Rizal, Tandang Sora, and Bindlestiff Studio, the only permanent community-based performing arts venue in the nation dedicated to showcasing emerging Filipino American and Filipino artists; and

WHEREAS, Filipino immigration patterns to San Francisco are rooted in the conquest and subsequent colonization of the Philippines by the United States in 1898, the American colonial regime in the Philippines from 1899-1946, and ongoing, often unequal and imperialist US-Philippines relations from 1946 to present; and
WHEREAS, U.S. Immigration policies intentionally caused waves of immigration of Filipinos to support various growing U.S. industries, including immediately after the Philippine-American War (1899-1913); and

WHEREAS, According to the 2013 San Francisco Filipino Heritage Addendum to the South of Market Historic Context Statement, the first wave of Filipino immigration to the United States can be traced directly to the Spanish-American War when San Francisco’s Presidio served as the principal port of embarkation for soldiers headed to the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, after the war, under the US government’s Pensionado Program, hundreds of Filipino students attended colleges and universities in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Northern California; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Sugar Planter’s Association heavily recruited thousands of Filipino workers to work on Hawaiian plantations beginning in 1906, and after unsuccessful strikes protesting their labor conditions, thousands migrated to the mainland to settle on the West Coast and the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1910s and 1920s; and

WHEREAS, these students and workers were followed by thousands of Filipino immigrants who came directly to California in the 1920s and 1930s, many of whom were aspiring students, most of whom found work as Merchant Marines, on ships, and on farms, canneries, and in the service sector in San Francisco and Northern California; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco served as a principal port for these men arriving in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Many Filipino immigrants found employment in San Francisco’s service sector as bellhops, dishwashers, servants and cooks; and

WHEREAS, A Filipino enclave of bachelor men known as Manilatown developed adjacent to Chinatown; and
WHEREAS, Despite the passage of the United States Immigration Act of 1924 which barred Asian immigration, Filipinos continued to be aggressively recruited as a source of cheap labor because Filipinos were classified as United States Nationals, not aliens and were therefore exempt from the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, The Filipino population in California rose from 2,700 in 1920 to over 20,500 in 1930 resulting in the formation of numerous Filipino social support organizations in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Filipinos experienced racial segregation and violent and brutal anti-Filipino sentiment in San Francisco and nationwide, resulting in the 1934 Tydings-McDuffie Act which gave the Philippines independence but re-classified Filipinos as aliens and restricted entry to 50 per year; and

WHEREAS, During the Second World War, thousands of Filipino men volunteered for service, and some 16,000 Filipinos living in California obtained U.S. citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the 1946 U.S. Bases Agreement between the U.S. Military and the Philippines facilitated the recruitment of thousands of Filipino men into the U.S. Navy, thousands of whom settled in San Francisco and the larger Bay Area after World War II; and

WHEREAS, The Immigration Act of 1965 was responsible for the second great wave of Filipino immigration, when 20,000 Filipinos were allowed to enter the United States each year, along with family members of Filipinos who were already U.S. citizens, and

WHEREAS, During the 1960s the number of Filipinos living in San Francisco roughly doubled from 12,300 to 24,700 residents; and

WHEREAS, Many Filipino immigrants moved to SoMa because of its inexpensive rents and proximity to service sector jobs; and
WHEREAS, By 1970, Filipinos were the largest ethnic group in the SoMa, and the San Francisco Oakland metropolitan area had the largest population of Filipinos of any metropolitan area in the continental United States; and

WHEREAS, Other social and economic forces including the creation of the Yerba Buena Redevelopment area which demolished approximately 10,000 residential units and 700 businesses and the Fillmore/Western Addition Redevelopment area which demolished another Filipino residential enclave led to the decline of Filipinos living in the South of Market and Western Addition; and

WHEREAS, SoMa continues to be home to one of the highest concentrations of Filipinos in San Francisco, with multi-generational Filipino households in houses, apartment buildings and residential hotels nestled within the alleys and along the main streets of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, From the span of 1970's to 1990's, a significant number of Filipino arts facilities, retail businesses, streets and community-based organizations were established in SoMa; and

WHEREAS, After 1990, with the amendment to the Immigration Nationality Act, (IMMAct90) tens of thousands of Filipino World War II Veterans immigrated to the United States seeking recognition and benefits, thousands many of whom moved to San Francisco, specifically in the SoMa and other nearby areas; and

WHEREAS, To date, the surviving Filipino WWII Veterans still await full recognition and equity; and

WHEREAS, Without proper support and appropriate and timely planning, SoMa Pilipinas - its residents, businesses, arts, community-based organizations, places of worship, and other cultural markers are subject to the threat of displacement given the current market forces that are driving up housing and commercial rents; now, therefore, be it

Supervisors Kim; Mar, Wiener, Avalos, Campos, Peskin, Cohen, Yee, Breed
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLVED That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco (hereinafter "the Board") establishes SoMa Pilipinas—Filipino Cultural Heritage District to preserve and further develop SoMa Pilipinas as the regional center of Filipino culture and commerce, recognize the historical and present contributions of the community and neighborhood, to stabilize Filipino residents, business and community-serving institutions; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Department shall work with the SoMa Pilipinas Working Group consisting of members of the community representing the following sectors: arts and culture, workers, business, schools, affordable housing, community advocacy and land use, services, and city department and other local agency staff to develop a strategic and implementation plan to set policies that promote community development and stabilization, and increase the presence and visibility of the district; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, These city departments and other agencies shall include but not limited to, the Planning Department, Office of Economic & Workforce Development, Mayor's Office of Housing & Community Development, Grants for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission, Department of Human Service/Human Service Agency, Department of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Children, Youth and their Families, Department of Public Health, Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure, Department of Building Inspection, Department of Public Works, Entertainment Commission, Recreation and Park Department, and San Francisco Unified School District; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That such strategic plan for SoMa Pilipinas shall be developed by the Planning Department and submitted to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors within 6 months of adoption of this resolution; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board commends the effort of the Filipino community in working toward the creation of SoMa Pilipinas - Filipino Cultural Heritage District including...
the monumental work of Filipino-American Development Foundation (FADF) in spearheading this effort in conjunction with many other individuals and community organizations to form a district that will contribute to the sustainability, cultural visibility, vibrancy and economic opportunity for Filipinos in the City and County of San Francisco.
File Number: 151109

Date Passed: April 12, 2016

Resolution establishing the SoMa Pilipinas - Filipino Cultural Heritage District in the City and County of San Francisco.

April 04, 2016 Land Use and Transportation Committee - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE

April 04, 2016 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

April 12, 2016 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

   Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 151109

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/12/2016 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved
4/22/16