

1 [Commemorative Street Plaque – The Lexington Club]

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3 **Resolution authorizing the placement of a sidewalk plaque in front of the Lexington**
4 **Club, located at 3464 Lexington Street in accordance with Public Works Code, Section**
5 **789 et seq., the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance**

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7 WHEREAS, since its earliest days, San Francisco has been shaped by its LGBTQ
8 culture and the social institutions that have fostered community among lesbian, transgender,
9 gay, and queer-identifying people; and

10 WHEREAS, the Lexington Club opened on January 31, 1997, as a “neighborhood
11 space for the dykes, queers, artists, musicians and neighborhood folks who made up the
12 community that surrounded it”; and

13 WHEREAS, the Lexington Club, located at the corner of 19th Street and Lexington in
14 San Francisco’s Mission District, has facilitated a strong and vibrant sense of community
15 among San Francisco’s lesbian and queer community for the past 18 years; and

16 WHEREAS, the Lexington Club has served as a central meeting place and organizing
17 platform for San Francisco’s various lesbian and queer organizations; and

18 WHEREAS, among the many individuals who have found and contributed to the
19 vibrant community created by the Lexington Club are artists and writers such as award-
20 winning author and poet Michelle Tea, award-winning author Marci Blackman, fine-art
21 photographer Catherine Opie, sculptor and performer Harry Dodge, video artist Stanya Kahn,
22 writer and director Silas Howard, and noted painter Norma Jeanne Maloney;

23 WHEREAS, in addition to fostering community among San Francisco’s own lesbian
24 community, the Lexington Club is an internationally-renowned destination for lesbians and
25 queers from around the world; and

1 WHEREAS, at the time that the Lexington Club opened in 1997, the Mission District
2 had been the center of San Francisco’s lesbian community for at least three decades as the
3 location of such institutions as Kelly’s, Old Wives’ Tales Bookstore, Oseito Women's Baths,
4 Amelia’s, and the community-based performance space Red Dora’s Bearded Lady Café; and

5 WHEREAS, San Francisco has lost all of those community spaces, along with many
6 other establishments meaningful to LGBTQ people; and

7 WHEREAS, the Lexington Club, the City’s only identified lesbian bar as of the time of
8 this resolution, is slated to close on April 30, 2015;

9 WHEREAS, marking the significance of queer space, particularly in the wake of its
10 loss, is a valuable means of keeping alive the memory of San Francisco’s history;

11 WHEREAS, knowledge of this history encourages respect for diversity in all San
12 Franciscans and inspires future generations to create their own community space;

13 WHEREAS, owner Lila Thirkield and the family and staff of the Lexington Club have
14 vowed to continue creating opportunities for San Francisco’s dykes, queers, artists, and
15 musicians to organize and socialize and thrive, in spite of the loss of their long-time home at
16 the corner of 19th St. and Lexington St.; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Public Works Code,
18 Sections 789 *et seq.*, the Commemorative Street Plaque Ordinance, authorizes the placement
19 of plaques on the sidewalk in front of the Lexington Club at 3464 19th St., at Lexington St.;

20 and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board directs the Department of Public Works to complete
22 the process for reviewing and permitting the installation of plaques in the abovementioned
23 locations and placing the abovementioned addresses on the City's official list of
24 commemorative sites.

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