

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY


CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NOEL GALLO

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATIVELY RENAMING THE INTERSECTION AT VICKSBURG AVENUE AND FOOTHILL BOULEVARD "SANTU MAYA WAY" PURSUANT TO THE POLICY AND CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION NO. 77967 C.M.S.

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 34091.1 allows a jurisdiction by resolution to name a new public street or to rename an existing public street; and

WHEREAS, the naming of a new public street or the renaming of an existing public street is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970; and

WHEREAS, the City Council will occasionally honor the contributions of an outstanding individual with commemorative street names or by the renaming of a public street such as with Joe Morgan Way, Herbert Guice Way, Peter Van Kleef Way, Dr. Huey P. Newton Way, and Deontae Bush Way; and

WHEREAS, the City Council in 2003 established procedures for commemorative street naming through Resolution No. 77967 C.M.S. under which the City Council may, by its own motion, consider the renaming of a public street as a tribute to an individual, or as a result of a significant event or activity and one of the following conditions is met:

- The individual has positively impacted the lives of a nation or the world; or
- The name change is related to an economic development or redevelopment activity; or
- The renaming commemorates a significant historical event; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that Santu Maya's contributions to the Bay Area community eminently merit commemoration: and

WHEREAS, Santu Maya was born to a prosperous farm family in a Burmese village on December 25, 1950. She spent her earliest years helping tend the family crops--rice, beans, corn, and other vegetables and feeding and milking a small herd of cows; and

WHEREAS, her family sold their produce to those who could afford to buy it and shared it with those in need. All her life, Santu was committed to the welfare of others; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 15, Santu fell in love with a local boy, 18 years old and from a family poorer than her own. Fearing her parents' disapproval, Santu and her suitor ran away to marry and live in another village. There she gave birth to their child, a daughter they named Sanjoo. Two months later, her husband passed away; and

WHEREAS, fearing her daughter would be abused by a stepfather, Santu never remarried but channeled her love and energy into caring for her daughter and her community. Over time, she learned to care for the sick and wounded. Santu became the acting village doctor and midwife. She adopted and raised a baby, Laxmi, whose mother had died in childbirth; and

WHEREAS, when she turned 14, Santu's daughter, Sanjoo left the village and went to Thailand in search of a more exciting and more prosperous life. In her ten years in Thailand, Sanjoo became increasingly political. She met and married a multi-lingual political activist, Anil Verma.

WHEREAS, in due season, Anil and Sanjoo applied to travel to the US under the UNHCR program and settled in mid-east Oakland, in a 100-year-old bungalow on Wadean Place. Anil, who speaks 5 languages, found work as a medical translator. They welcomed two daughters and a son and became popular members of numerous intersecting religions and communities: and

WHEREAS, When Santu Maya came into America, Sanjoo was very excited to have her mother here and announced to all her neighbors and the community that her mother had finally arrived. Santu Maya was very helpful to everyone and eagerly engaged in community service. She was also a very devoted and religious person. In the short time before she was killed by a hit and run driver, Santu settled into the heart of her family, of her neighborhood and her religious community. It was a joyous time and promised to be a good life; and

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to honor Santu Maya's contribution to Oakland and the Bay Area by retaining the existing street name and installing commemorative plaques or signs and intends that the costs associated with such a commemorative act will be borne by Councilmember Noel Gallo's Office; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Council of the City of Oakland honors the life of courage and service of Santu Maya; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby approves the commemorative renaming of intersection at Vicksburg Avenue and Foothill Boulevard "Santu Maya Way," and be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council directs the City Administrator to proceed with the commemorative designation of 'Santu Maya Way' and placement of sign(s) or plaque(s) to that effect at the intersection of Vicksburg Avenue and Foothill Boulevard, upon payment of costs.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, JENKINS, KALB, KAPLAN, RAMACHANDRAN, REID, AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____

ASHA REED

City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California