

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 297580

ADOPTED ON JAN 28 2003

WHEREAS, San Diego's Middletown District was a historic settling area for Italian American immigrants, in which they created a unique extra-national community in the early 1900's; and

WHEREAS, in 1906, the San Francisco earthquake and an influx of Italian immigrants from San Pedro, where fishermen that hailed from Naples and Ischia had settled, caused San Diego's Italian population to swell; and

WHEREAS, these immigrants joined with local populations of Mexican, Japanese, and Portuguese in small fishing enterprises, where they became vital to the establishment and growth of the tuna fishing industry; and

WHEREAS, the fishing industry helped establish other businesses in the community of Little Italy; and

WHEREAS, the fishing fleet became a source of wealth for the City of San Diego; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, the fishermen's committee organized to ensure the success of the Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, the currently active community church, with members signing an agreement promising to donate 25 cents for every ton of fish that the boats sold; and

WHEREAS, as Italians grew in the social and economic ranks of the City, many moved away from Little Italy; and

WHEREAS, the completion of Interstate 5 in 1962 disrupted the neighborhood, causing residents to relocate, and the community lost its identity as a place where Italians lived; and

WHEREAS, in the mid 1990's the San Diego Centre City Development Corporation initiated the process of the reconstruction and reconditioning of Little Italy; and

WHEREAS, Little Italy is today a thriving neighborhood that has become an example for other redevelopment projects in San Diego County; and

WHEREAS, the local business community has established the Little Italy Association, a recognized business improvement district that works in concert with the City of San Diego to ensure the success of the neighborhood and to emphasize and support its commercial success; and

WHEREAS, the recognition of Little Italy as a destination through the placement of freeway markers and plaques will encourage the continued growth and redevelopment of this important component of the history of San Diego; and

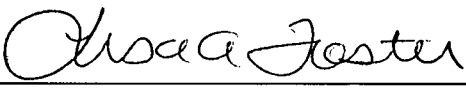
WHEREAS, on September 16, 2002, the California State Assembly passed Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 204, which designated specific exits on Interstate 5 as the route for the destination of Little Italy, and which requested the Department of Transportation to determine the costs of appropriate plaques and markers and, upon receipt of donations, to erect these plaques and markers; and

WHEREAS, the Little Italy Association has agreed to privately raise the funds for the plaques and markers; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 204 makes the establishment of the Little Italy plaques and markers conditional on the approval of a resolution by the San Diego City Council designating the area referenced in that resolution as the Little Italy District; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that the area referenced in Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 204 is hereby designated the "Little Italy District".

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By   
Lisa A. Foster.  
Deputy City Attorney

LAF:jab  
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