

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Company /
2 National Urban League]

3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Company / National Urban League, located**
5 **at 2015 Steiner Street, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 0655, Lot No. 006.**

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7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by
8 Resolution initiate landmark designation; and

9 WHEREAS, Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic Preservation
10 Commission to respond to landmark designation initiations from the Board within 90 days, but
11 that the Board of Supervisors may, by Resolution, extend the time within which the Historic
12 Preservation Commission is to render its decision; and

13 WHEREAS, 2015 Steiner Street is significant both for its Early 20th Century American
14 Commercial Style architectural style, and as the location of the San Francisco Chapter of the
15 National Urban League in the 1950s; and

16 WHEREAS, 2015 Steiner Street was constructed in 1907 as the headquarters of the
17 Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Company; and

18 WHEREAS, The building is a notable example of the Early 20th Century American
19 Commercial Style architectural style, and a rare example of this style, typology, and scale
20 outside the City's downtown and industrial areas; and

21 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Urban League was incorporated and received affiliate
22 status from the Urban League in 1946 with founder Dr. Daniel A. Collins serving as its first
23 chairman; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Urban League was one of San Francisco’s most prominent and
2 impactful post-World War II civil rights organizations advocating for improved housing
3 conditions and expanded economic opportunities; and

4 WHEREAS, From 1950 to 1960, the Urban League operated out of 2015 Steiner
5 Street; and

6 WHEREAS, The Urban League supported a bill to create the California Fair
7 Employment Practices Commission, which passed the State legislature in 1959; and

8 WHEREAS, The Urban League focused on addressing employment discrimination and
9 securing employment opportunities for African Americans, successfully leading to the first
10 Black telephone operator, bank clerical worker, bus driver, and department store salesperson
11 within the first fourteen years; and

12 WHEREAS, The Urban League oversaw programs related to African American health,
13 housing, welfare, education, and youth; and

14 WHEREAS, The organization expanded into Oakland, Richmond, Marin City, and the
15 Peninsula; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2023, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
17 Progressive Era & Early Revival Styles (1890-1930) Historic Context Statement, which
18 provides frameworks for identifying and evaluating sites for historical significance and integrity
19 associated with Progressive Era architectural styles including Early 20th Century American
20 Commercial; and

21 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework as outlined in the Progressive
22 Era & Early Revival Styles (1890-1930) Historic Context Statement, the property can be
23 considered as an individually eligible historic resource as a notable example of Early 20th
24 Century American Commercial architecture; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2024, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
2 African American Citywide Historic Context Statement, which provided frameworks for
3 identifying and evaluating sites for historical significance and integrity associated with San
4 Francisco’s diverse and robust African American histories; and

5 WHEREAS, The African American Citywide Historic Context Statement was prepared
6 by qualified historians in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards; and

7 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework outlined in the African
8 American Citywide Historic Context Statement, the property can be considered as an
9 individually eligible historic resource based on its strong association with African American
10 History; and

11 WHEREAS, The African American Citywide Historic Context Statement identifies 2015
12 Steiner Street as a property that may be eligible for landmark designation; and

13 WHEREAS, The building exterior retains sufficient integrity; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of Pacific
15 States Telephone and Telegraph Company / National Urban League under Planning Code,
16 Section 1004.1; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
18 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
19 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
20 Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Company / National Urban League; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
22 Preservation Commission consider whether the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph /
23 National Urban League warrants landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the
24 Board according to Article 10 of the Planning Code.

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