

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - First AME Zion Church]

2

3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **the First AME Zion Church, located at 2155-2159 Golden Gate Avenue, Assessor's**
5 **Parcel Block No. 1160, Lot Nos. 029 and 030.**

6

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, 2155-2159 Golden Gate Avenue is significant as the location of the First
14 African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church and as an exuberant example of mid-century
15 modern architecture; and

16 WHEREAS, The First AME Zion Church is one of San Francisco's first three African
17 American churches, which were formed in 1852; and

18 WHEREAS, The First AME Zion Church (originally AME Zion Church) was founded in
19 1852 by Reverend John Jamison Moore, at Stockton Street, between Broadway and Vallejo
20 (non-extant), and moved to a few different locations after; and

21 WHEREAS, Prior to its current location, the church had been located at 1669 Geary
22 Street in the Western Addition, though the building was demolished in the late 1950s due to
23 redevelopment; and

24 WHEREAS, The Church moved to a new building in 1960 at 2159 Golden Gate
25 Avenue, which was designed by architect Robert Batchelor, where it is currently located; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2022, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted
2 the San Francisco Modern Architecture and Landscape Design (1935-1970) Historic Context
3 Statement, which provided frameworks for identifying and evaluating Mid Century
4 Modern buildings for historical significance and integrity; and

5 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework outlined in the San Francisco
6 Modern Architecture and Landscape Design (1935-1970) Historic Context Statement, the
7 property can be considered as an individually eligible historic resource based on year built,
8 extant character-defining features, and sufficient integrity; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2024, the San Francsico Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
10 African American Citywide Historic Context Statement, which provided frameworks for
11 identifying and evaluating sites for historical significance and integrity associated with San
12 Francisco’s diverse and robust African American histories; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, The African American Citywide Historic Context Statement identifies First
20 AME Zion Church as a property that may be eligible for landmark designation; and

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

22 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of First
23 AME Zion Church under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
25 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its

1 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
2 First AME Zion Church; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
4 Preservation Commission consider whether First AME Zion Church warrants landmark
5 designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the
6 Planning Code.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25