

1 [Landmark Status – Interior of St. Brigid Church]

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3 **Resolution initiating the interior designation of 2151 Van Ness Avenue, St. Brigid**  
4 **Church, Block 0575, Lot 015, appending City Landmark No. 252 to create an interior**  
5 **landmark pursuant to Section 1004.1 of the Planning Code.**  
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7 WHEREAS, 2151 Van Ness Avenue, also known as St. Brigid Church, is a large, cross-  
8 plan church building located at the corner of Van Ness Avenue and Broadway; and,

9 WHEREAS, The building has stood at this intersection since 1900; and,

10 WHEREAS, The building is a cultural and architectural anchor for the Marina, Pacific  
11 Heights, and Russian Hill neighborhoods; and,

12 WHEREAS, The building has survived both the 1906 and 1989 earthquakes; and,

13 WHEREAS, The building is a repository for numerous treasures including an  
14 exceptional pipe organ constructed specifically for the church by the Italian firm of Fratelli  
15 Ruffatti, holy water fonts donated by the Alice Phelan Sullivan family, marble altar and side  
16 altar imported from Carrara, Italy, and the clerestory with ten-foot tall statues of angels with  
17 outspread wings by the noted artist John MacQuarrie; and,

18 WHEREAS, The exterior of the building is city landmark #252; and,

19 WHEREAS, The stained glass windows from Harry Clarke Studios, being a component  
20 of said City Landmark # 252, are an inextricable part of the interior and are best viewed  
21 therein; and,

22 WHEREAS, The building was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic  
23 Places on October 5th 1995; and,

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1           WHEREAS, The building is listed in the Van Ness Area Plan of the General Plan for  
2 the City of San Francisco as an important corner stone church designed in the Romanesque  
3 style; and,

4           WHEREAS, The building was included in the Here Today survey of historic properties,  
5 adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1970; and,

6           WHEREAS, The church building is an example of Richardsonian Romanesque  
7 architecture designed by Shea (Frank T.) and Shea (Will D.) and Henry A. Minton (National  
8 Register criterion C); and,

9           WHEREAS, Its importance to San Francisco's Irish community, has associated it with  
10 events that have made a significant contribution to the patterns of San Francisco history  
11 (National Register criterion A); and,

12           WHEREAS, The building reopened only seven months after the great earthquake and  
13 fire of 1906 and served the community as a refuge and place of solace in one of the city's  
14 most daunting periods, it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to  
15 the patterns of San Francisco history (National Register criterion A); and,

16           WHEREAS, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone received the sacraments in the  
17 building, attended St. Brigid School and was a life-long parishioner, and the interior of the  
18 building is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (National Register  
19 criterion B); now, therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby initiate the  
21 interior designation of St. Brigid Church, 2151 Van Ness Avenue, Block 575, Lot 015 as a  
22 landmark, and so directs the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board/Historic Preservation  
23 Commission to place the property in consideration of an interior landmark designation which  
24 would be appended to City Landmark No. 252, pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code  
25 and other appropriate provisions of law.