

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Vesuvio Cafe Building]

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3 **Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **the Vesuvio Cafe Building, located at 253 Columbus Avenue, Assessor's Parcel Block**
5 **No. 0162, Lot No. 019.**

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

9 WHEREAS, Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic Preservation
10 Commission to respond to historic district or individual landmark designations initiated by the
11 Board of Supervisors within 90 days, and authorizes the Board, by Resolution, to extend the
12 time within which the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; and

13 WHEREAS, The Vesuvio Cafe Building, located at 253 Columbus Avenue, Assessor's
14 Parcel Block No. 0162, Lot No. 019, was constructed in 1913 in the North Beach
15 neighborhood; and

16 WHEREAS, The property is significant for its association with Italian American cultural
17 heritage and LGBTQ and Counterculture history in San Francisco, and is an excellent
18 example of Renaissance Revival style with Neo-Baroque decorative elements as designed by
19 architect of merit Italo Zanolini for A. Cavalli Books and long occupied by Vesuvio Cafe; and

20 WHEREAS, The property exhibits extant character defining features, including stucco
21 cladding, expansive rounded corner storefront with tiled bulkhead and transom, brick clad
22 entry to the second floor surmounted by a pediment, second story with pilasters with
23 Corinthian capitals, multiple arched windows flanked by columns and topped by hood
24 ornament, a corner balconette supported by corbels and enclosed by a balustrade, and has a
25 bracketed cornice and parapet; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2023, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted
2 Architecture, Planning, & Preservation Professionals: A Collection of Biographies, which
3 includes an evaluative framework to provide standards for consistent, informed evaluations of
4 the city’s various architecture professionals, including architect of merit Italo Zanolini; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2022, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
6 North Beach Historic Context Statement, which identified the property as a cultural and
7 community center to the Italian community; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2016, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
9 LGBTQ Historic Context Statement, which identified the property as an early cafe for
10 Bohemians and Beat writers; and

11 WHEREAS, The property can be considered as an individually eligible historic resource
12 based on its year built, extant character-defining features, architect of merit, cultural
13 associations, and sufficient integrity; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the
15 Vesuvio Cafe Building under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
17 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
18 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
19 the Vesuvio Cafe Building; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
21 Preservation Commission consider whether the Vesuvio Cafe Building warrants landmark
22 designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the
23 Planning Code.

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