

1 [Urging Support for Preservation and Restoration of Sacred Heart Church.]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Building Inspection and the San Francisco**
4 **Archdiocese to diligently monitor the status and condition of the historic Sacred Heart**
5 **Church and expressing support for preserving this historical treasure through all**
6 **means possible.**

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8 WHEREAS, San Francisco's unique architectural and historic character increases the
9 quality of life for all its residents, and helps make it a prime tourist destination; and,

10 WHEREAS, Sacred Heart Church has stood sentinel over the Western Addition
11 neighborhood for 108 years and is a landmark silhouette on the city's landscape; and,

12 WHEREAS, Sacred Heart Church was built by the Irish and became the largest Irish
13 parish west of Chicago subsequently serving all immigrant groups including Italians, Latino,
14 African-Americans, and Filipino-Americans during prosperous and downtrodden eras
15 reflecting changing times and the diversity of San Francisco; and,

16 WHEREAS, Sacred Heart Church was home to the famous opera singer Maude Fay
17 Simington, C. J. I. Devlin, architect of St. Ignatius Church, the family of boxer "Gentleman"
18 Jim Corbett, and Matthew Kavanagh, builder of "postcard row" Victorian houses at Alamo
19 Square; and in more recent times home to the renowned Sacred Heart Church Gospel Choir;
20 and,

21 WHEREAS, Sacred Heart Church stood strong after two of the greatest natural
22 disasters to befall San Francisco, the 1906 and Loma Prieta earthquakes, providing food and
23 shelter to the victims of these calamities, highlighting her tradition of social services which
24 also included the Black Panther Breakfast Program for Children, the Family School, and
25 Senior Food Program; and,

1 WHEREAS, Sacred Heart Church was designed by famed architect Thomas J. Welsh
2 and is his last standing ecclesiastical work in San Francisco, the City of San Francisco listed
3 Sacred Heart Church as an historically significant building; and,

4 WHEREAS, Sacred Heart Church’s interior artscape is as fine as any grand
5 cathedral embellished with rare Attilio Moretti designed Carrera marble altars, delicate ceiling
6 murals by famed muralist Achille G. Dist and exquisite Fritz-Mayer rose windows; and,

7 WHEREAS, Sacred Heart Church is where generations of San Franciscans gathered
8 as a community and celebrated the passages of their lives. A symbol of our culture, this
9 historic building is seasoned with the joys and laughter, sorrows and tears of us – San
10 Francisco. Sacred Heart Church is the living foundation on which San Francisco was built and
11 rebuilt holding our memories, our hopes, our past and our future. To demolish this symbol of
12 our culture is to erase us from the landscape; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
14 hereby declares its unqualified support for preserving Sacred Heart Church, this most
15 significant historical building, through all means possible; and commends the efforts of the
16 organization, Save Our Sacred Heart, in achieving this goal; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors send a copy of this
18 Resolution to the Department of Building Inspection and the San Francisco Archdiocese.

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