

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 23, 2024

To: Rich Hillis, Director, Planning Department
Jonas Ionin, Commission Secretary, Historic Preservation Commission

From: *ACE* Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, Board of Supervisors

Subject: Initiating Landmark Designation - Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag
Installation at Harvey Milk Plaza (File No. 240311)

On April 2, 2024, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 170-24 sponsored by Supervisor Rafael Mandelman (File No. 240311, Initiating Landmark Designation - Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag Installation at Harvey Milk Plaza); enacted on April 12, 2024.

A copy of the Resolution is being forwarded to you pursuant to Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by email: board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org.

c: Members of the Board of Supervisors; Supervisors Rafael Mandelman, Matt Dorsey, Catherine Stefani, Aaron Peskin, Connie Chan
Dan Sider, Chief of Staff, Planning Department
Corey Teague, Zoning Administrator, Planning Department
Tina Tam, Zoning Administrator, Planning Department
Lisa Gibson, Environmental Review Officer, Planning Department
Devyani Jain, Deputy Environmental Review Officer, Planning Department
Aaron Starr, Manager of Legislative Affairs, Planning Department
Josh Switzky, Acting Director of Citywide Planning, Planning Department
Joy Navarrete, Major Environmental Analysis, Planning Department
Debra Dwyer, Principal Environmental Planner, Planning Department
Elizabeth Watty, Current Planning Division, Planning Department
Richard Sucre, Deputy Director Historic Preservation, Planning Department
Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, Deputy City Attorney

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag Installation at Harvey Milk
2 Plaza]

3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code of**
4 **Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza at the southwest corner**
5 **of the intersection of Market Street and Castro Street.**

6
7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by
8 Resolution initiate a landmark designation; and

9 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza has been
10 an invaluable neighborhood asset in District 8 for over 26 years and contributes to the unique
11 arts and culture of San Francisco; and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco is the birthplace of the rainbow flag in 1978; and

13 WHEREAS, The rainbow flag has become a global symbol for the LGBTQ+
14 community, while the Rainbow Flag is an artwork created by Gilbert Baker; and

15 WHEREAS, On November 8, 1997, this Rainbow Flag was installed to commemorate
16 the 20th anniversary of the election of Harvey Milk to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,
17 this victory by an openly gay man was a watershed for the queer rights movement, since then,
18 open members of the LGBTQ+ community have been elected to many levels of public office
19 throughout the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, After Milk's election on November 8, 1977, many members of San
21 Francisco's LGBTQ+ community have been elected or appointed to office; and

22 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza is a political
23 artwork; and

1 WHEREAS, Since its installation, this Rainbow Flag, a site-specific artwork designed
2 by Gilbert Baker, a queer artist who had lived in San Francisco; has flown for 24-hours a day
3 year-round; and

4 WHEREAS, The artwork consists of a 6-striped banner, flagpole and metal plaque; and

5 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker is recognized as an important political artist; his six-color
6 Rainbow Flag is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the London
7 Design Museum, the Tang Museum, the Barack Obama Presidential Library in Chicago, the
8 Philadelphia Art Museum and many more esteemed institutions; and

9 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker created many monumental rainbow flags, but the Rainbow
10 Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza remains Baker's sole permanent installation; and

11 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza has
12 become a physical beacon of pride and self-empowerment - for both the residents of San
13 Francisco and for visitors from around the world; and

14 WHEREAS, The LGBTQ+ community is under attack; as right-wing activists and
15 legislators threaten trans rights and LGBTQ+ books and curricula, with more than 50 towns
16 and school districts across the United States have banned the Rainbow Flag - seven in
17 California alone; and

18 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza deserves
19 recognition as a historically significant art installation; and

20 WHEREAS, The Gilbert Baker Foundation spurred interest for Landmark Designation
21 for Article 10 Landmark Designation for Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey
22 Milk Plaza; and

23 WHEREAS, As the birthplace of this global symbol, San Francisco can ensure that this
24 beacon of hope flies, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, in perpetuity, in defiance of those
25

1 who wish to erase sexual and gender minorities from the rainbow of humanity; now, therefore
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of Gilbert
4 Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza, under Planning Code, Section 1004.1;
5 and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
7 Landmark Designation Report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
8 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
9 Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
11 Preservation Commission consider whether Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at
12 Harvey Milk Plaza warrants landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the
13 Board according to Article 10 of the Planning Code.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 240311

Date Passed: April 02, 2024


Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code of Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza at the southwest corner of the intersection of Market Street and Castro Street.

April 02, 2024 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 240311

I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/2/2024 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board



London N. Breed
Mayor

4/12/24

Date Approved