

1 [Planning Code - Landmark Designation - Sha'ar Zahav (Historic Location)]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the Sha'ar Zahav (Historic**
 4 **Location), located at 220 Danvers Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2702, Lot No.**
 5 **019, on the west side of Danvers Street between Caselli Avenue and 19th Street, as a**
 6 **landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code;**
 7 **affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental**
 8 **Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under**
 9 **Planning Code, Section 302, and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the**
 10 **eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.**

11 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
 12 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
 13 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
 14 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
 15 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
 16 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
 17 subsections or parts of tables.

18 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

19 Section 1. Findings.

20 (a) Environmental and Land Use Findings.

21 (1) The Planning Department has determined that the Planning Code
 22 amendment proposed in this ordinance is subject to a Categorical Exemption from the
 23 California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et
 24 seq., hereinafter "CEQA") pursuant to Section 15308 of California Code of Regulations, Title
 25 14, Sections 15000 et seq., the Guidelines for implementation of the statute, for actions by
 regulatory agencies for protection of the environment (in this case, landmark designation).
 Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.

1 _____ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board of Supervisors affirms
2 this determination.

3 (2) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, the Board of Supervisors finds that
4 the proposed landmark designation of the Sha’ar Zahav (Historic Location) will serve the
5 public necessity, convenience, and welfare for the reasons set forth in Historic Preservation
6 Commission Resolution No. _____, recommending approval of the proposed
7 designation, which is incorporated herein by reference.

8 (3) The Board of Supervisors finds that the proposed landmark designation of
9 the Sha’ar Zahav (Historic Location) is consistent with the General Plan and with Planning
10 Code Section 101.1(b) for the reasons set forth in Historic Preservation Commission
11 Resolution No. _____, which is incorporated herein by reference.

12 (b) General Findings.

13 (1) On October 21, 2025, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No.
14 496-25, initiating landmark designation of the Sha’ar Zahav (Historic Location) as a San
15 Francisco landmark pursuant to Section 1004.1 of the Planning Code. On October 24, 2025,
16 the Mayor approved the resolution. Said resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
17 Supervisors in File No. 250847.

18 (2) Pursuant to Charter Section 4.135, the Historic Preservation Commission
19 has authority “to recommend approval, disapproval, or modification of landmark designations
20 and historic district designations under the Planning Code to the Board of Supervisors.”

21 (3) The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet was prepared by Planning
22 Department Preservation staff. All preparers meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional
23 Qualification Standards for historic preservation program staff, as set forth in Code of Federal
24 Regulations Title 36, Part 61, Appendix A. The report was reviewed for accuracy and
25 conformance with the purposes and standards of Article 10 of the Planning Code.

1 (4) The Historic Preservation Commission, at its regular meeting of January 21,
2 2026, reviewed Planning Department staff’s analysis of the historical significance of the
3 Sha’ar Zahav (Historic Location) set forth in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet dated
4 January 21, 2026.

5 (5) On January 21, 2026, after holding a public hearing on the proposed
6 designation and having considered the specialized analyses prepared by Planning
7 Department staff and the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, the Historic Preservation
8 Commission recommended designation of the Sha’ar Zahav (Historic Location) as a landmark
9 consistent with the standards set forth in Section 1004 of the Planning Code, by Resolution
10 No. _____. Said resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.
11 _____.

12 (6) The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the Sha’ar Zahav (Historic
13 Location) has a special character and special historical, cultural, architectural, and aesthetic
14 interest and value, and that its designation as a landmark will further the purposes of and
15 conform to the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code. In doing so, the Board
16 of Supervisors hereby incorporates by reference the findings of the Landmark Designation
17 Fact Sheet.

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19 Section 2. Designation.

20 Pursuant to Section 1004.3 of the Planning Code, the Sha’ar Zahav (Historic Location),
21 located at 220 Danvers Street, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 2702, Lot No. 019, is hereby
22 designated as a San Francisco landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Section
23 1004. Appendix A to Article 10 of the Planning Code is hereby amended to include this
24 property.

1 Section 3. Required Data.

2 (a) The description, location, and boundary of the landmark site consists of the
3 footprint of the Sha’ar Zahav (Historic Location), located on Assessor’s Parcel Block No.
4 2702, Lot No. 019, on the west side of Danvers Street between Caselli Avenue and 19th
5 Street in San Francisco’s Castro/Upper Market neighborhood, as shown in the Landmark
6 Designation Fact Sheet.

7 (b) The characteristics of the Landmark that justify its designation are described and
8 shown in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet and other supporting materials contained in
9 Planning Department Record Docket No. 2025-010439DES. In brief, the Sha’ar Zahav
10 (Historic Location), located at 220 Danvers Street, is eligible for local designation for its
11 significant historical association with San Francisco’s Gay Jewish community. The property
12 was the original home of Congregation Sha’ar Zahav, one of the first gay Jewish groups on
13 the West Coast. Formed in 1977, Sha’ar Zahav, faced several early challenges, including
14 finding a regular place to meet, unwillingness of local publishers to accept advertisement for
15 their public services, and initial lack of acceptance from other local Jewish organizations. By
16 the early 1980s, Sha’ar Zahav had raised funds to purchase a former Church of Jesus Christ
17 of Latter-Day Saints (the subject property) in Corbett Heights. Founding member Robert Tat
18 recalls moving into “a home of our own” as a profoundly important experience.

19 (c) The particular features that should be preserved, or replaced in kind as determined
20 necessary, are those generally shown in photographs and described in the Landmark
21 Designation Fact Sheet, which can be found in Planning Department Record Docket No.
22 2025-010439DES, and which are incorporated in this designation by reference as though fully
23 set forth herein. Specifically, the features that are character-defining and shall be preserved or
24 replaced in kind are the exterior elevations, form, massing, structure, rooflines, architectural
25 ornament, and materials of the property identified as:

- 1 (1) Corner lot location;
- 2 (2) Two-three story height split level configuration;
- 3 (3) Wood siding;
- 4 (4) Gabled roof with exposed rafter tails;
- 5 (5) Front tower with decorative beams under hipped roof;
- 6 (6) Primary ground-level entry;
- 7 (7) Recessed arched windows on front façade wall;
- 8 (8) Tower;
- 9 (9) Side façade lancet windows.

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11 Section 4. Effective Date.

12 This ordinance shall become effective at 12:00 a.m. on the 31st day after enactment.
13 Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance
14 unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within 10 days of receiving it, or the Board of
15 Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

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17 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
18 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

19 By: /s/ Peter Miljanich
20 PETER MILJANICH
21 Deputy City Attorney

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