

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

Date: October 13, 2023
To: Rich Hillis, Director, Planning Department
Jonas Ionin, Commission Secretary, Historic Preservation Commission
From: *ACC* Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, Office of the Clerk of the Board
Subject: Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - San Francisco Fire Station
No. 44 (File No. 230880)

On September 26, 2023, the Board of Supervisors finally passed Resolution No. 448-23, sponsored by Supervisor Walton, and approved by Mayor London N. Breed on October 5, 2023.

A copy of the Resolution is being transmitted to you for informational purposes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, at (415) 554-4445 or by email at: john.carroll@sfgov.org.

cc: Dan Sider, Chief of Staff
Tina Tam, Deputy Zoning Administrator
Corey Teague, Zoning Administrator
Lisa Gibson, Environmental Review Officer
Devyani Jain, Deputy Environmental Review Officer
Josh Switzky, Acting Director of Citywide Planning
Aaron Starr, Manager of Legislative Affairs
Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planning
Elizabeth Watty, Current Planning Division

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - San Francisco Fire Station No. 44]

2
3 **Resolution initiating an amendment to the landmark designation of the San Francisco**
4 **Fire Station No. 44, located at 1298 Girard Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6194, Lot**
5 **No. 010, under Article 10 of the Planning Code.**

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

9 WHEREAS, Fire Station No. 44, located in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood, at 1298
10 Girard Street, at the corner of Wilde Avenue, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6194, Lot No. 010,
11 was built in 1913 by renowned architect John Reid, Jr.; and

12 WHEREAS, While the great institutional building for Fire Station No. 44 was
13 constructed in 1913, the San Francisco Fire Department did not move in until 1915 to wait for
14 the delivery of a modern engine-driven apparatus as they phased out horses for fire rescue;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Fire Station No. 44 has a brick façade, cornice work, and triple inset
17 balconies that evoke designs inspired by Italian villas; and

18 WHEREAS, There are a few San Francisco fire station buildings of this era still around,
19 but they are fairly rare; and

20 WHEREAS, A city survey conducted in 1976 resulted in pretty lukewarm public
21 response on this building but industrial and utilitarian structures, no matter how elegant or
22 thoughtfully designed, were not seen as important during that time; and

23 WHEREAS, Fire Station No. 44 is now currently one of the oldest firehouse in active
24 service and preservation; and

1 WHEREAS, In partnership with the Visitacion Valley History Project, community
2 worked on identifying preservation projects to address the neighborhood's
3 underrepresentation in the city's official inventory of historic building; and

4 WHEREAS, Visitacion Valley currently has one designated city-landmark and through
5 a month-long campaign to identify the neighborhood's first city landmark designation in 2022,
6 residents and community members identified Fire Station No. 44 as one of the buildings they
7 would like to be designated as a city-landmark; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby initiates an amendment to the
9 landmark designation of the Fire Station No. 44, located at 1298 Girard Street (Assessor's
10 Parcel Block No. 6194, Lot No. 010); and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that Planning
12 Department prepare a Landmark Designation Report to submit to the Historic Preservation
13 Commission for its consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural
14 interest and value of the Fire Station No. 44; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the Historical
16 Preservation Commission consider what amendments to the landmark designation are
17 warranted to capture the property's full historical significance, and submit its recommendation
18 to the Board of Supervisors, 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: 230880

Date Passed: September 26, 2023

Resolution initiating an amendment to the landmark designation of the San Francisco Fire Station No. 44, located at 1298 Girard Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6194, Lot No. 010, under Article 10 of the Planning Code.


September 18, 2023 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED

September 26, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED


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

File No. 230880

I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/26/2023 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board



London N. Breed
Mayor

10/5/23

Date Approved