

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Engine Company No.13]

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3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **Engine Company No.13, 1458 Valenica Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6531, Lot**
5 **No. 011.**

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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, Engine Company No.13, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6531, Lot No. 011,
14 located at 1458 Valancia Street in the Mission neighborhood, was constructed in 1883, and
15 remained an active firehouse until 1958; and

16 WHEREAS, The building remains in its original location and is the oldest standing
17 firehouse in San Francisco; and

18 WHEREAS, The property is a rare example of a brick firehouse in Italianate design with
19 cast iron facade detailing; and

20 WHEREAS, The property includes intact features including its Ionic pilasters at the
21 ground floor, Corinthian pilasters at the second floor, denticulated beltcourse, Doric
22 columnettes, detailed cornice, and more; and

23 WHEREAS, Italianate architecture was the first Victorian era style to gain popularity in
24 San Francisco and remained a dominant style between 1865 and 1886; and

1 WHEREAS, The southern Mission was spared destruction from the 1906 earthquake
2 and fire and thus retains generally intact pre-disaster architecture from the latter half of the
3 Nineteenth Century; and

4 WHEREAS, The southern Mission's concentrated pre-disaster building stock is part of
5 the citywide ring of survivors that surrounded the burnt-out urban core following the 1906
6 disaster, which overall is a small fraction of the building stock that had existed prior to that
7 date; and

8 WHEREAS, The 1968 book "Here Today, San Francisco's Architectural Heritage", by
9 the Junior League of San Francisco, Inc. discusses the property; and

10 WHEREAS, The South Mission Historic Resource Survey was one of several planning
11 studies conducted to inform the implementation of the Mission Area Plan and was adopted by
12 the Historic Preservation Commission on November 17, 2010; and

13 WHEREAS, The South Mission Historic Resource Survey resulted in the
14 documentation of approximately 3,800 individual buildings in the area that is bounded roughly
15 by 20th Street to the north, Cesar Chavez Street to the south, Potrero Avenue to the east, and
16 Guerrero Street to the west; and

17 WHEREAS, The South Mission Historic Resources Survey was prepared by qualified
18 historians in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards; and

19 WHEREAS, The South Mission Historic Resource Survey identified the property as
20 being individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2022 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
22 Victorian Era Styles (1870-1910) Historic Context Statement which provided frameworks for
23 identifying and evaluating Italianate and other Victorian-era buildings for historical significance
24 and integrity; and
25

1 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework as outlined in the Victorian Era
2 Styles (1870-1910) Historic Context Statement, the property can be considered as an
3 individually eligible historic resource based on year built, extant character defining features,
4 and sufficient integrity; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of Engine
6 Company No.13 under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
8 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
9 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
10 Engine Company No.13; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
12 Preservation Commission consider whether Engine Company No.13 warrants landmark
13 designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the
14 Planning Code.