

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Most Holy Redeemer Church Complex]

2
3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **the Most Holy Redeemer Church Complex, consisting of 110 Diamond Street**
5 **(Church), 100 Diamond Street (Rectory), 115 Diamond Street (Convent), 117 Diamond**
6 **Street (School); Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2693, Lot No. 002 (Church), Assessor's**
7 **Parcel Block No. 2693, Lot No. 001 (Rectory), Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2694, Lot**
8 **No. 033 (Convent), Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2694, Lot No. 028 (School).**

9
10 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by
11 Resolution initiate landmark designation; and

12 WHEREAS, Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic Preservation
13 Commission to respond to historic district or individual landmark designations initiated by the
14 Board of Supervisors within 90 days, and authorizes the Board, by Resolution, to extend the
15 time within which the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; and

16 WHEREAS, The Most Holy Redeemer Church Complex is significant for its association
17 with the growth of the Roman Catholic Church in San Francisco at the turn of the twentieth
18 century, as an important social asset for the Eureka Valley immigrant communities in the early
19 twentieth century, with the history of Roman Catholic relations with LGBTQ communities, and
20 for its early and continued use as an AIDS hospice; and

21 WHEREAS, In November 1900, the Archdiocese of San Francisco established the
22 Most Holy Redeemer parish, located at 110 Diamond Street, Assessor's Parcel Block
23 No. 2693, Lot No. 002, to serve the Irish, German, and Italian Catholic populations of Eureka
24 Valley, now commonly known as the Castro, and by 1901 the parish had completed the
25 subject Classical Revival church; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition to the church, in 1925 a convent and school were constructed
2 on the opposite side of Diamond Street, at 115-117 Diamond Street, Assessor's Parcel Block
3 No. 2694, Lots No. 033 and 028, and in 1939 a rectory was constructed to the north of the
4 church, at 100 Diamond Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2693, Lot No. 001; and

5 WHEREAS, The church long served as a hub for neighborhood social events, in
6 addition to religious services; and

7 WHEREAS, While originally a conservative congregation, the church changed its
8 stance on LGBTQ inclusion in the early 1980s in response to shifting neighborhood
9 demographics; and

10 WHEREAS, The complex became an important local hub for the Castro's LGBTQ
11 residents with community based programs and assets when Federal resources were lacking;
12 including a shelter for homeless youth (1984), an AIDS support group (1984), an AIDS
13 minister, and development of the AIDS hospice; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1987, the defunct convent of Most Holy Redeemer Church in the Castro
15 became the Coming Home Hospice, reportedly the first AIDS hospice in the nation; and

16 WHEREAS, The property today has continued to house the Coming Home Hospice;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The 2017 Eureka Valley Historic Context Statement identifies the Most
19 Holy Redeemer Church Complex as an important center of religious and social life in the
20 historically Catholic dominated Eureka Valley district for early immigrant groups including
21 Irish, German and Italian populations; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2016 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
23 Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco which provided
24 frameworks for identifying and evaluating sites for historical significance and integrity
25 associated with San Francisco's diverse and robust LGBTQ histories; and

1 WHEREAS, The Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History was prepared
2 by qualified historians in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards; and

3 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework as outlined in the Citywide
4 Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History, the property can be considered as an
5 individually eligible historic resource based on its strong association with LGBTQ History; and

6 WHEREAS, The Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History identifies the
7 Coming Home Hospice as a property which may be eligible for City Landmark status; and

8 WHEREAS, The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District's 2024 Cultural History, Housing and
9 Economic Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) report includes the strategy, "Ensure the
10 Historic Preservation Commission and/or the Board of Supervisors prioritize further municipal
11 landmarking and state and national nomination of Castro LGBTQIA+ historical sites..."; and

12 WHEREAS, The building exterior remains sufficient integrity to convey its significance
13 as the Most Holy Redeemer Church Complex; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the
15 Most Holy Redeemer Church Complex under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
17 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
18 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
19 the Most Holy Redeemer Church Complex; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
21 Preservation Commission consider whether the Most Holy Redeemer Church Complex
22 warrants landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to
23 Article 10 of the Planning Code.