

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - First Church of Christ Scientist]

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3 **Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**  
4 **the First Church of Christ Scientist, located at 1700 Franklin Street, Assessor's Parcel**  
5 **Block No. 0642, Lot No. 006.**

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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, The First Church of Christ Scientist, located at 1700 Franklin Street,  
14 Assessor's Parcel Block No. 0642, Lot No. 006, was constructed in 1911 in the Pacific  
15 Heights neighborhood; and

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

18 WHEREAS, The property is an excellent example of a Richardsonian Romanesque  
19 style church designed by architect of merit Edgar A. Mathews; and

20 WHEREAS, The property exhibits extant Richardsonian Romanesque features,  
21 including polychromatic brick cladding, polychromatic terracotta ornament with naturalistic  
22 detailing, cross gabled roof clad in terracotta tiles, rounded arches above doors, band of  
23 deeply recessed entrance doors, corbel tables, and square tower; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2022, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the  
25 Victorian Era Styles (1870-1910) Historic Context Statement which provided frameworks for

1 identifying and evaluating Richardsonian Romanesque and other Victorian style buildings for  
2 historical significance and integrity; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2023, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the  
4 Architecture, Planning, & Preservation Professionals: A Collection of Biographies Historic  
5 Context Statement, which developed an evaluative framework in order to provide standards  
6 for consistent, informed evaluations of the city's various architecture professionals; and

7 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative frameworks outlined in the Victorian Era  
8 Styles (1870-1910) Historic Context Statement and Architecture, Planning, & Preservation  
9 Professionals: A Collection of Biographies Historic Context Statement, the property can be  
10 considered as an individually eligible historic resource based on its architect of merit Edgar A.  
11 Mathews, year built, extant character-defining features, and sufficient integrity; now, therefore  
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the  
14 First Church of Christ Scientist under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

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

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic  
20 Preservation Commission consider whether the First Church of Christ Scientist warrants  
21 landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of  
22 the Planning Code.

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