

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Lincoln Park "City Cemetery" - Approval of 90-Day
2 Extension for Historic Preservation Commission Review]

3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **Lincoln Park, formerly known as City Cemetery, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot**
5 **No. 029; and extending the prescribed time within which the Historic Preservation**
6 **Commission may render it's decision by 90 days, for a total of 180 days.**

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

10 WHEREAS, Lincoln Park was once a part of a 200-acre burial ground known as City
11 Cemetery that was a resting place for at least 23,000 people; and

12 WHEREAS, City Cemetery, also known as Golden Gate Cemetery, was the only
13 municipal burial place for the indigent dead in San Francisco between the 1860s and early
14 1900s; and

15 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors granted sections of the cemetery to benevolent,
16 social, and religious societies for interment of their members; and

17 WHEREAS, At least 24 different societies were granted sections, which included the
18 Knights of Pythias, Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows of America, Italian Mutual
19 Benevolent Society, the Society of Old Friends, Grand Army of the Republic, Beth Israel,
20 Congregation Schaari Zedeck, City and County of San Francisco, Hop Wo Association, the
21 German Benevolent Society, St. Andrew's Society and Caledonian Club, Master Mariners'
22 Benevolent Society, Scandinavian Society, French Benevolent Society, Improved Order of
23 Red Men, Japanese Colony of San Francisco, Ladies' Seamen's Friend Society, Qui Son
24 Tong Company, Congregation Sherith Israel, Christian Chinese Society, Ning Yung
25 Association, Chuck Sen Tong Company, Greek Russian Slavonian Benevolent Society,

1 Slavonic Mutual Benevolent Society, and other Chinese societies that were not granted formal
2 claim to specific sections; and

3 WHEREAS, After Assessor's Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot No. 029 was reclassified as a
4 municipal park in 1909, the benevolent, social, and religious societies with cemetery sections
5 were given six months to disinter the remains of their buried dead, which occurred in a
6 scattered and disorganized fashion throughout the time allotted, and as indicated by municipal
7 reports, removal continued as late as 1916; and

8 WHEREAS, It remains unclear which societies removed their dead and how many
9 burials were removed because no registers, records, or deeds about the cemetery have
10 survived; and

11 WHEREAS, Lincoln Park is still home to a spire monument erected by the Ladies'
12 Seamen's Friend Society, a society that cared for indigent merchant marine sailors, especially
13 those with disabilities, and took it upon themselves to give these sailors proper burials at the
14 City Cemetery; and

15 WHEREAS, After 1878, the remains of deceased Chinese persons were transported to
16 City Cemetery where they were temporarily buried until a bone collector disinterred the fully
17 decomposed remains and prepared the bones for transport to the deceased's home village,
18 which was in accordance with Chinese burial practices of the time; and

19 WHEREAS, The burial of the deceased in the Chinese section of City Cemetery was
20 an occasion for religious rites that included prayer, the burning of incense, food offerings of
21 roast pig and fowl, and the burning of symbolic paper money and clothes for the deceased's
22 journeys in the afterlife; and

23 WHEREAS, The Kong Chow funerary chapel in Lincoln Park is the last remaining
24 structure that was designated to host these ceremonies in City Cemetery; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Kong Chow chapel is still inscribed with characters that read
2 “Temporary Resting Place for Kong Chow Coffins Before Burial,” and “Temporary Resting
3 Place for Coffins Being Sent to Kong Chow Province,” and still retains an altar area where
4 incense and offerings were burnt; and

5 WHEREAS, The Kong Chow Funerary Chapel stands as a symbol of Chinese culture
6 and history in San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board hereby initiates a landmark designation of Lincoln Park,
8 the site formerly known as City Cemetery, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot No. 029.,
9 under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Planning Department
11 prepare a Landmark Designation Report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission
12 for its consideration of the unique historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and value of
13 the property and existing house and structures; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Historic Preservation
15 Commission consider whether the property or existing structures warrant landmark
16 designation, and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the
17 Planning Code; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic
19 Preservation Commission to respond to landmark designation initiations from the Board within
20 90 days, but that the Board of Supervisors may, by resolution, extend the time within which
21 the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; therefore, in order to allow the
22 Planning Department more time to complete its review of this landmark designation, this
23 Resolution shall also serve as a 90-day extension of that deadline, for a total of 180 days to
24 respond starting from the transmittal date.

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