

1 [Initiate the Designation of 2151 Van Ness Avenue, St. Brigid Church, as a Landmark]

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3 **Resolution initiating the designation of 2151 Van Ness Avenue, St. Brigid Church,**  
4 **Block 0575, Lot 015, as a landmark pursuant to Section 1004.1 of the Planning Code.**  
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6 WHEREAS, 2151 Van Ness Avenue, also known as St. Brigid Church, is a large,  
7 cross-plan church building located at the corner of Van Ness Avenue and Broadway; and

8 WHEREAS, The building has stood at this intersection since 1900; and,

9 WHEREAS, The building is a cultural and architectural anchor for the Marina, Pacific  
10 Heights and Russian Hill neighborhoods; and,

11 WHEREAS, The building has survived both the 1906 and 1989 earthquakes; and,

12 WHEREAS, The building is a repository for numerous treasures including an  
13 exceptional pipe organ constructed specifically for the church by the Italian firm of Fratelli  
14 Ruffatti, stained glass from Harry Clarke Studios in Dublin, and statuary by the noted Irish  
15 sculptor Seamus Murphy; and,

16 WHEREAS, The building was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic  
17 as part of a Section 106 review which took place in October 1995; and,

18 WHEREAS, The building is listed in the Van Ness area plan of the general plan for the  
19 city of San Francisco as an important corner stone church designed in the Romanesque style;  
20 and,

21 WHEREAS, The building was included in the Here Today survey of historic properties,  
22 adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1970; and,  
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1           WHEREAS, The building is a perfectly preserved example of Richardsonian  
2 Romanesque architecture designed by Shea (Frank T.) & Shea (Will D.) and Henry A. Minton  
3 (National Register criterion C); and,

4           WHEREAS, the building is an example of unique methods of construction having used  
5 San Francisco curbstones and crossing stones in the construction of its façade (National  
6 Register criterion C); and,

7           WHEREAS, because of the building's importance to San Francisco's Irish community,  
8 it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the patterns of San  
9 Francisco history (National Register criterion A); and,

10          WHEREAS, because the building reopened only seven months after the great  
11 earthquake and fire of 1906 and served the community as a refuge and place of solace in one  
12 of the city's most daunting periods, it is associated with events that have made a significant  
13 contribution to the patterns of San Francisco history (National Register criterion A); and,

14          WHEREAS, because San Francisco Mayor George Moscone received the sacraments  
15 in the building, attended St. Brigid School, and was a life-long parishioner, the building is  
16 associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (National Register criterion B); now,  
17 therefore, be it

18          RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby initiate the  
19 designation of St. Brigid Church, 2151 Van Ness Avenue, Block 0575, Lot 015 as a landmark,  
20 and so directs the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board to place the property in  
21 consideration as a landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code and other  
22 appropriate provisions of law.