

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - St. Paul's Church]

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3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **St. Paul's Church, located at 1660 Church Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6619, Lot**
5 **No. 001.**
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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, St. Paul's Church was constructed in 1901 at 1660 Church Street,
14 Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6619, Lot No. 001, in the Noe Valley neighborhood, instigated by
15 the local Irish Catholic immigrant community; and

16 WHEREAS, The building remains in its original location and is an exemplary example
17 of Gothic Revival architecture in San Francisco; and

18 WHEREAS, The building was designed by Architect of Merit Frank Shea; and

19 WHEREAS, The building played an integral role as a religious center in the early days
20 of Noe Valley's neighborhood development as it grew from an area devoted to ranching and
21 grazing on the periphery of San Francisco to the residential enclave it remains today; and

22 WHEREAS, The parish was the site of filming for the popular 1992 film Sister Act,
23 starring Whoopi Goldberg; and

24 WHEREAS, The property includes intact features including stone cladding, decorative
25 stained glass windows, lancet arched openings, and pier buttresses; and

1 WHEREAS, Gothic Revival style was a popular choice for residential and religious
2 buildings during the early years of San Francisco's establishment and expansion upon initially
3 being settled during the Gold Rush; and

4 WHEREAS, By 1880, the Gothic Revival style had mostly been replaced by Victorian
5 style architecture but remained a popular choice for religious architecture well into the 20th
6 century, though extant examples of Gothic Revival architecture are rare in San Francisco; and

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

9 WHEREAS, In 2025 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
10 Early Settlement Era Styles (1848-1906) Historic Context Statement which provided
11 frameworks for identifying and evaluating Gothic Revival and other early settlement era style
12 buildings for historical significance and integrity; and

13 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework as outlined in the Early
14 Settlement Era Styles (1848-1906) Historic Context Statement, the property can be
15 considered as an individually eligible historic resource based on year built, architectural
16 significance, extant character defining features, and sufficient integrity; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of St.
18 Paul's Church under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
20 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
21 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of St.
22 Paul's Church; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
24 Preservation Commission consider whether St. Paul's Church warrants landmark designation
25 and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the Planning Code.