

1 [Resolution to Initiate the Designation of the ILA Hall 38-79, 113 Steuart Street, as a
2 Landmark]

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4 **Resolution initiating designation of real property at 113 Steuart Street, located on the**
5 **western side of Embarcadero encompassing all of Block 3715, Lot 2, including the**
6 **building located thereon, commonly known as the ILA Hall 38-79, as a Landmark**
7 **pursuant to Section 1004.1 of San Francisco Planning Code.**

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9 WHEREAS, The 113 Steuart Street, the landmark building that was ground zero for
10 the Great Maritime and General Strike of 1934; and,

11 WHEREAS, from 1933 to 1935, the International Longshoremen’s Association (now
12 the ILWU) Local 38-79 was located on the second floor of this very building and that this local
13 is the direct predecessor of ILWU Local 10; and,

14 WHEREAS, Bloody Thursday occurred at this very site on July 5, 1934, that the
15 funeral of the Longshore martyrs, Howard Sperry and Nick Bordoise took place in this Hall,
16 that their bodies lay in state there for four days, that the massive funeral procession for
17 labor’s martyrs across San Francisco began here; and,

18 WHEREAS, this great silent march electrified working people around the world and
19 galvanized the broadest support for the General Strike; and,

20 WHEREAS, police and armed goons fired shotguns, tear gas, chemical gas bombs
21 and explosives into the windows of the Hall killing and wounding untold numbers of working
22 people; and,

23 WHEREAS, Harry Bridges and the leaders of the ILA emerged from this Hall and the
24 great struggles that were planned and organized there; and,

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1 WHEREAS, in 1934 the employers sought to make concessions to longshore workers
2 alone and the newspaper headlines screamed “Strike Over”; and,

3 WHEREAS, Harry Bridges declared that the general strike and the struggle was not
4 about longshore workers alone but was for all organized labor and all working people; and,

5 WHEREAS, Harry Bridges refused to allow the employers to pit workers against each
6 other; and,

7 WHEREAS, Harry Bridges and the ILA leadership declared that “an injury to one is an
8 injury to all” and that the struggle was for good jobs and decent wages and workers power for
9 organized labor; and,

10 WHEREAS, that working people everywhere today need good paying union jobs; and,

11 WHEREAS, there is vast work to be done in creating descent and affordable housing
12 for all working people, schools that are not collapsing around the heads of students and
13 teachers, restoration and renewal of the infrastructure of San Francisco and of cities across
14 the United States; and,

15 WHEREAS, what Harry Bridges and the Great Maritime and General Strike of 1934
16 taught us is that working people need to stand united as a mighty, mighty union; and,

17 WHEREAS, the jobs we want will only come through the mobilization of all working
18 people as in 1934; and,

19 WHEREAS, the ILA Hall 38-79 is today exactly as it was in 1934; and,

20 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted overwhelmingly to reject
21 the Planning Commission’s “negative determination” and the demolition of 113 Steuart; and,

22 WHEREAS, that former seven year ILWU International President Brian McWilliams led
23 the fight against the destruction of 113 Steuart Street; and,

24 WHEREAS, that officers, executive board members and ranks of all major Maritime
25 and other union joined this fight; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby initiate the
2 designation of real property at 113 Steuart Street, located on the western side of
3 Embarcadero encompassing all of Block 3715, Lot 2, including the building located thereon,
4 commonly known as the ILA Hall 38-79, as a Landmark and so refers this resolution to the
5 Historic Preservation Commission for review pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code.

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