

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(Duplicated in Committee – March 4, 2024)

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - Sacred Heart Parish Complex]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the Sacred Heart Parish Complex, located at 546-548 Fillmore Street, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, and 660 Oak Street, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 0828, Lot Nos. 12, 21, 22, and 22A, as a Landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code; affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302, and findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.

Existing Law

Under Article 10, Section 1004 of the Planning Code, the Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, designate an individual structure that has special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as a City landmark. Unless prohibited by state law, once a structure has been named a landmark, any construction, alteration, removal or demolition for which a City permit is required necessitates a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission. (Planning Code § 1006; Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, § 4.135.) Thus, landmark designation generally affords a high degree of protection to historic and architectural structures of merit in the City. There are currently more than 300 individual landmarks in the City under Article 10, in addition to structures and districts in the downtown area that are protected under Article 11. (See App. A to Article 10.)

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends the Planning Code to add a new historic landmark to the list of individual landmarks under Article 10: the Sacred Heart Parish Complex, located at 546-548 Fillmore Street, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, and 660 Oak Street. The ordinance finds that the Sacred Heart Parish Complex is eligible for designation as a City landmark under National Register of Historic Places Criteria A, B and C, because it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; and represents the work of a master. Specifically, designation of the Sacred Heart Parish Complex is proper given its association with the growth and development of the Western Addition and Catholic religious institutions in San Francisco in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; for its association with prominent and influential civil rights activist Father Eugene Boyle, pastor of the church from 1968 to 1972; as a distinctive and well-executed example of a Romanesque Revival-style Catholic parish grouping; and for its association with master architect Thomas J. Welsh.

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As required by Section 1004, the ordinance lists the particular features that shall be preserved, or repaired or replaced in-kind, as determined necessary.

Background Information

On September 20, 2023, after holding a public hearing on the proposed landmark designation and having considered the Landmark Designation Case Report prepared by Planning Department staff, the Historic Preservation Commission voted to recommend landmark designation of the Sacred Heart Parish Complex to the Board of Supervisors. This ordinance incorporates amendments made by the Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee on February 26, 2024.

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