

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - St. Nicholas Cathedral]

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3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**  
4 **St. Nicholas Cathedral, 2005 15th Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 3558, Lot No. 074.**

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6 WHEREAS, Uder Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by  
7 Resolution initiate landmark designations; and

8 WHEREAS, Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic Preservation  
9 Commission to respond to historic district or individual landmark designations initiated by the  
10 Board of Supervisors within 90 days, and authorizes the Board, by Resolution, to extend the  
11 time within which the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; and

12 WHEREAS, St. Nicholas Cathedral was constructed in 1904 at 2005 15th St,  
13 Assessor's Parcel Block No. 3558, Lot No. 074, in the Castro/Upper Market neighborhood  
14 originally as St. Luke's German Evangelical Lutheran Church; and

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

17 WHEREAS, The property includes intact features including its egg and dart cornice at  
18 roofline, arched stained glass windows; roof and vine ornaments; and tower with pyramidal  
19 hipped roof; and

20 WHEREAS, The property includes a blue onion-shaped cupola with gold cross which  
21 were added in the 1960s when the property was acquired by the Russan Orthodox Church;  
22 and

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

1 WHEREAS, By 1880, the Gothic Revival style had mostly been replaced by Edwardian  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

4 WHEREAS, The 1968 book “Here Today, San Francisco’s Architectural Heritage”, by  
5 the Junior League of San Francisco, Inc. discusses the property; and

6 WHEREAS, The 2009 Market Octavia Historic Resource Survey was conducted  
7 following the adoption of the Market & Octavia Area Plan; and

8 WHEREAS, The Market Octavia Historic Resource Survey was prepared by qualified  
9 historians in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards; and

10 WHEREAS, The Market Octavia Historic Resource Survey identified the property as  
11 being individually eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources; and

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

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

20 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of St.  
21 Nicholas Cathedral under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a  
23 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its  
24 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of St.  
25 Nicholas Cathedral; and, be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic  
2   Preservation Commission consider whether St. Nicholas Cathedral warrants landmark  
3   designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the  
4   Planning Code.