

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Bank of Italy Branch Building]

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3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **Bank of Italy Branch Building, located at 400-410 Castro Street, Assessor's Parcel**
5 **Block No. 2647 Lot No. 035.**
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7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by
8 Resolution initiate landmark designation; 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, Amadeo Peter Giannini founded the Bank of Italy in San Francisco in 1904
14 to serve immigrants other banks would not; and

15 WHEREAS, Bank of Italy Branch Building was constructed in 1922 at 400-410 Castro
16 Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2647 Lot No. 035, in the Eureka Valley neighborhood,
17 now commonly known as the Castro; and

18 WHEREAS, The Bank of Italy Branch Building is significant for its association with
19 commercial development of the Eureka Valley neighborhood; and

20 WHEREAS, In the early part of the twentieth century, Eureka Valley was developing as
21 a suburban district of the city, though through the 1906 earthquake and fires, World War 1,
22 and the economic boom of the 1920s and the Great Depression, the neighborhood
23 transitioned to a self-sustaining urban district; and

24 WHEREAS, The Bank of Italy Branch Building construction, along with the
25 development of the Castro Theatre, Hibernia Bank, and a few automotive related business

1 contemporary to this time period, reflect the establishment of Eureka Valley as an identifiable
2 district within San Francisco; and

3 WHEREAS, The Bank of Italy Branch Building helped link commercial growth on
4 Market Street with the major commercial intersection of Castro and 18th Streets given its
5 prominent corner location in the commercial district; and

6 WHEREAS, The Bank of Italy founder changed the name to Bank of America
7 circa 1930, and the bank remained at the property until the mid-1990s; and

8 WHEREAS, The Bank of Italy Branch Building embodies characteristics typical of
9 neighborhood branch banks from the 1920s and is a good example of Beaux Arts
10 architecture, with large exterior windows and a larger interior volume; and

11 WHEREAS, The property retains intact architecturally distinctive features including a
12 cornice with brackets and decorative molding, large windows with decorative keystones and
13 the central entry with pediment; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates a landmark designation of the
15 Bank of Italy Branch Building under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
17 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
18 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
19 the Bank of Italy Branch Building; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
21 Preservation Commission consider whether the Bank of Italy Branch Building warrants
22 landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of
23 the Planning Code.