

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Sha'ar Zahav (Historic Location)]

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3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **Sha'ar Zahav (Historic Location), located at 220 Danvers Street, Assessor's Parcel**
5 **Block No. 2702, Lot No. 019.**

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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, Sha'ar Zahav (Historic Location) is significant for its historical association
14 with San Francisco's LGBTQ Jewish community as the original home of Congregation Sha'ar
15 Zahav, one of the first LGBTQ Jewish groups on the West Coast; and

16 WHEREAS, Formed in 1977, Sha'ar Zahav, faced several early challenges including
17 finding a regular place to meet, unwillingness of local publishers to accept advertisement for
18 their public services, and initial lack of acceptance from other local Jewish organizations; and

19 WHEREAS, By the early 1980s, Sha'ar Zahav had raised funds to purchase a former
20 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, located at 220 Danvers Street, Assessor's Parcel
21 Block No. 2702, Lot No. 019, in Corbett Heights; and

22 WHEREAS, The congregation grew so fast that the new 120-seat sanctuary quickly
23 became too small and in 1998, Sha'ar Zahav left the Danvers Street site for its current, and
24 more spacious location in a former funeral home at the corner of Dolores Street and 16th
25 Street; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2016 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
2 Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco which provided
3 frameworks for identifying and evaluating sites for historical significance and integrity
4 associated with San Francisco’s diverse and robust LGBTQ histories; and

5 WHEREAS, The Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History was prepared
6 by qualified historians in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards; and

7 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework as outlined in the Citywide
8 Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History, the property can be considered as an
9 individually eligible historic resource based on its strong association with LGBTQ History; and

10 WHEREAS, Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History identifies the
11 Sha’ar Zahav (Historic Location) as a property which may be eligible for City Landmark status;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District’s 2024 Cultural History, Housing and
14 Economic Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) report includes the strategy, “Ensure the
15 Historic Preservation Commission and/or the Board of Supervisors prioritize further municipal
16 landmarking and state and national nomination of Castro LGBTQIA+ historical sites...”; and

17 WHEREAS, The building exterior remains identifiable as the location of Sha’ar Zahav,
18 as it did in the 1980s-1990s; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates a landmark designation of the
20 Sha’ar Zahav (Historic Location) under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
22 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
23 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
24 the Sha’ar Zahav (Historic Location); and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
2 Preservation Commission consider whether the Sha'ar Zahav (Historic Location) warrants
3 landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of
4 the Planning Code.

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