

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - International Institute]

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3 **Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **the International Institute, located at 2209 Van Ness Avenue, Assessor’s Parcel Block**
5 **No. 0570, Lot No. 029.**

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7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by
8 Resolution initiate landmark designations; 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, The International Institute is located at 2209 Van Ness Avenue,
14 Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 0570, Lot No. 029 in the Pacific Heights neighborhood; and

15 WHEREAS, The property was designed by architect Moses J. Lyon, believed to be the
16 city’s first licensed Jewish architect, and originally constructed for Mrs. Abraham Brown by her
17 father, Charles Meyer, a merchant tailor, in 1901; and

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

20 WHEREAS, The property is an excellent example of a Classical Revival residence from
21 the early 1900s; and

22 WHEREAS, The property exhibits extant Classical Revival features, including a
23 symmetrical facade with two-story Ionic columns surmounted by a Palladian window dormer,
24 pedimented entry, and decorative cornices; and

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1 WHEREAS, In 2023, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
2 Progressive Era & Early Revival Styles (1890-1930) Historic Context Statement, which
3 provided frameworks for identifying and evaluating Classical Revival and early revival style
4 buildings for historical significance and integrity; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2023, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
6 Architecture, Planning, & Preservation Professionals: A Collection of Biographies Historic
7 Context Statement, which developed an evaluative framework in order to provide standards
8 for consistent, informed evaluations of the city’s various architecture professionals; and

9 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative frameworks as outlined in the Progressive
10 Era & Early Revival Styles (1890-1930) Historic Context Statement and the Architecture,
11 Planning, & Preservation Professionals: A Collection of Biographies Historic Context
12 Statement, the property can be considered as an individually eligible historic resource based
13 on its design by an architect Moses J. Lyon, year built, extant character-defining features, and
14 sufficient integrity; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the
16 International Institute under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

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

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

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