

1 [Landmark Designation nomination for Mary Ellen Pleasant Trees located at 1661 Octavia Street.]

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3 **Resolution of intent initiating the nomination of the mature blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*)**  
4 **trees located at 1661 Octavia Street (Assessor's Block 647 lot 002) for landmark tree status**  
5 **pursuant to Public Works Code Section 810(b), acknowledging the temporary designation**  
6 **of such tree pursuant to Public Works Section 810(d), and authorizing other official acts in**  
7 **furtherance of the Resolution.**

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9 WHEREAS, a landmark tree is a tree on private or public property that has special  
10 characteristics including size, age, historical significance, and cultural value; and,

11 WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Pleasant planted the trees at 1661 Octavia Street giving them an  
12 important historical association; and,

13 WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Pleasant, was a significant figure in San Francisco's history. Ms  
14 Pleasant was a 19th Century female entrepreneur of partial African descent who used her fortune  
15 to further abolition. She worked on the Underground Railroad across many states and then helped  
16 bring it to California during the Gold Rush Era. She was a friend and financial supporter of John  
17 Brown and well known in abolitionist circles. After the Civil War she took her battles to the courts  
18 and won several civil rights victories, one of which was cited and upheld in the 1980's and  
19 resulted in her being called, "The Mother of Human Rights in California"; and,

20 WHEREAS, Landmark trees have an especially prominent and beautiful visual impact and  
21 are of notable size; and,

22 WHEREAS, these trees have been profiled in print and other media coverage, including  
23 The Trees of San Francisco by Michael Sullivan; and,

24 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance Number 17-06, an amendment  
25 to Public Works Code - Sections 801, landmark trees, significant trees, and penalties for violations

1 in support of a landmark tree program a copy of said Ordinance is on file with the Clerk of the  
2 Board of Supervisors in file number 051458 which is incorporated herein by reference; and,

3 WHEREAS, The City's Urban Forestry Council developed landmark tree designation  
4 criteria, forms, and procedure and the Board of Supervisors, in Resolution Enacted Number 440-  
5 06, adopted said criteria. A copy of such Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
6 Supervisors file Number 060487 which is incorporated herein by reference; and, be it

7 RESOLVED, The Board, pursuant to Public Works Code Section 810(b), hereby  
8 adopts this Resolution of intent to initiate landmark tree designation for the mature blue gum  
9 (Eucalyptus globulus) trees located at 1661 Octavia Street (Assessor's Block 647 lot 002), and  
10 acknowledges the temporary designation of such tree for landmark tree status pursuant to Public  
11 Works Code Section 810(d); and, be it,

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board directs the Clerk to forward this Resolution and  
13 accompanying documents contained in the file to the Urban Forestry Council to begin the  
14 landmark tree designation process for the subject tree; and, be it,

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board urges the Director of Public Works to immediately  
16 notify the affected property owner of the pending nomination and inform said owner of the special  
17 permit and approval requirements for removal of landmark trees under Public Works Code  
18 Section 810(f) if such notification has not yet occurred.

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