

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - James C. Hormel Mansion]

2  
3 **Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**  
4 **the James C. Hormel Mansion, located at 181 Buena Vista Avenue East, Assessor's**  
5 **Parcel Block No. 1258, Lot No. 026.**  
6

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, The James C. Hormel Mansion, located at 181 Buena Vista Avenue East,  
14 Assessor's Parcel Block No. 1258, Lot No. 026, is significant for its historical association with  
15 San Francisco's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community as the  
16 long term home of LGBTQ philanthropist, activist, and diplomat James C. Hormel, who  
17 resided in the home from 1986-2012; and

18 WHEREAS, Hormel was active in the fight against the Briggs initiative in the late 1970s  
19 which sought to ban gays and lesbians from working in California public schools, and helped  
20 establish the Human Rights Campaign Fund in 1981; and

21 WHEREAS, President Clinton nominated Hormel to be the Ambassador to  
22 Luxembourg in 1999 amidst a great deal of controversy, becoming the first openly gay  
23 American ambassador to a foreign country; and  
24  
25

1 WHEREAS, over the course of his lifetime, Hormel donated more than \$15 Million to  
2 LGBTQ causes, included funding the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center at San  
3 Francisco Public Library's Main Library, which opened in 1996; and

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, The property is an example of the Queen Anne architectural style, which  
14 dominated San Francisco residential architecture by 1890; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2022 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the  
16 Victorian Era Styles (1870-1910) Historic Context Statement which provided frameworks for  
17 identifying and evaluating Queen Anne and other Victorian-era buildings for historical  
18 significance and integrity; and

19 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework as outlined in the Victorian Era  
20 Styles (1870-1910) Historic Context Statement, the property can be considered as an  
21 individually eligible historic resource based on year built, extant character-defining features,  
22 and sufficient integrity; and

23 WHEREAS, The building exterior remains identifiable as the location of the James. C.  
24 Hormel Mansion, as it did during his tenure; therefore be it  
25

1           RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the  
2 James. C. Hormel Mansion under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

3           FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a  
4 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its  
5 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of  
6 the James. C. Hormel Mansion; and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic  
8 Preservation Commission consider whether the James. C. Hormel Mansion warrants  
9 landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of  
10 the Planning Code.