

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - San Francisco AIDS Foundation]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the San Francisco AIDS Foundation building, located at 514-520 Castro Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2695, Lot No. 002, on the west side of Castro Street between 18th and 19th Streets, as a landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302, and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.

Existing Law

Under Article 10, Section 1004 of the Planning Code, the Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, designate an individual structure that has special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as a City landmark. Unless prohibited by state law, once a structure has been named a landmark, any construction, alteration, removal or demolition for which a City permit is required necessitates a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission. (Planning Code § 1006; Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, § 4.135.) Thus, landmark designation generally affords a high degree of protection to historic and architectural structures of merit in the City. There are currently more than 300 individual landmarks in the City under Article 10, in addition to structures and districts in the downtown area that are protected under Article 11. (See App. A to Article 10.)

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends the Planning Code to add a new historic landmark to the list of individual landmarks under Article 10: the San Francisco AIDS Foundation building, located at 514-520 Castro Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2695, Lot No. 002. The ordinance finds that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation building is eligible for local designation because it is significant as the original location of the office of the Kaposi's Sarcoma Research and Education Foundation, later renamed the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. In the early 1980s, San Francisco was among the first American cities to face the crisis of AIDS. In 1982, activist Cleve Jones was approached by Dr. Marcus Conant about creating the Foundation as a community-based organization to address the threat of AIDS and lobby the government for additional funds. The Foundation initially operated from folding tables at the corner of 18th and Castro Streets, but within a few months opened their first office at the property. The organization gained local and national recognition for its AIDS expertise, and informed the nation's first safe sex guidelines for gay men in 1982. While the organization did not remain at the property long, the building is significant for having housed one of the first organizations in the United States specifically addressing AIDS. As required by Section 1004, the ordinance

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lists the particular features that shall be preserved, or replaced in-kind, as determined necessary.

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