

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Lincoln Park "City Cemetery"]

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3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**  
4 **Lincoln Park, formerly known as City Cemetery, at Assessor's Parcel Block No. 1313,**  
5 **Lot No. 029.**

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7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors (Board)  
8 may by Resolution initiate landmark designation; and

9 WHEREAS, Lincoln Park was once a part of a 200-acre burial ground known as City  
10 Cemetery that was a resting place for at least 23,000 people; and

11 WHEREAS, City Cemetery, also known as Golden Gate Cemetery, was the only  
12 municipal burial place for the indigent dead in San Francisco between the 1860s and early  
13 1900s; and

14 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors granted sections of the cemetery to benevolent,  
15 social, and religious societies for interment of their members; and

16 WHEREAS, At least 24 different societies were granted sections, which included the  
17 Knights of Pythias, Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows of America, Italian Mutual  
18 Benevolent Society, the Society of Old Friends, Grand Army of the Republic, Knights of  
19 Pythias, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Schaari Zedeck, City and County of San  
20 Francisco, Hop Wo Association, the German Benevolent Society, St. Andrew's Society and  
21 Caledonian Club, Master Mariners' Benevolent Society, Scandinavian Society, French  
22 Benevolent Society, Improved Order of Red Men, Japanese Colony of San Francisco, Ladies'  
23 Seamen's Friend Society, Qui Son Tong Company, Congregation Sherith Israel, Christian  
24 Chinese Society, Ning Yung Association, Grand Army of the Republic, Chuck Sen Tong  
25 Company, Greek Russian Slavonian Benevolent Society, Slavonic Mutual Benevolent

1 Society, and other Chinese societies that were not granted formal claim to specific sections;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, After Assessor's Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot No. 029 was reclassified as a  
4 municipal park in 1909, the benevolent, social, and religious societies with cemetery sections  
5 were given six months to disinter the remains of their buried dead, which occurred in a  
6 scattered and disorganized fashion throughout the time allotted, and as indicated by municipal  
7 reports, removal continued as late as 1916; and

8 WHEREAS, It remains unclear which societies removed their dead and how many  
9 burials were removed because no registers, records, or deeds about the cemetery have  
10 survived; and

11 WHEREAS, Lincoln Park is still home to a spire monument erected by the Ladies'  
12 Seamen's Friend Society, a society that cared for indigent merchant marine sailors, especially  
13 those with disabilities, and took it upon themselves to give these sailors proper burials at the  
14 City Cemetery; and

15 WHEREAS, After 1878, the remains of deceased Chinese persons were transported to  
16 City Cemetery where they were temporarily buried until a bone collector disinterred the fully  
17 decomposed remains and prepared the bones for transport to the deceased's home village,  
18 which was in accordance with Chinese burial practices of the time; and

19 WHEREAS, The burial of the deceased in the Chinese section of City Cemetery was  
20 an occasion for religious rites that included prayer, the burning of incense, food offerings of  
21 roast pig and fowl, and the burning of symbolic paper money and clothes for the deceased's  
22 journeys in the afterlife; and

23 WHEREAS, The Kong Chow funerary chapel in Lincoln Park is the last remaining  
24 structure that was designated to host these ceremonies in City Cemetery; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Kong Chow chapel is still inscribed with characters that read  
2           “Temporary Resting Place for Kong Chow Coffins Before Burial,” and “Temporary Resting  
3           Place for Coffins Being Sent to Kong Chow Province,” and still retains an altar area where  
4           incense and offerings were burnt; and

5           WHEREAS, The Kong Chow Funerary Chapel stands as a symbol of Chinese culture  
6           and history in San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, That the Board hereby initiates a landmark designation of Lincoln Park,  
8           the site formerly known as City Cemetery, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot No. 029.,  
9           under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

10          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Planning Department  
11          prepare a Landmark Designation Report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission  
12          for its consideration of the unique historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and value of  
13          the property and existing house and structures; and, be it

14          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Historic Preservation  
15          Commission consider whether the property or existing structures warrant landmark  
16          designation, and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the  
17          Planning Code.

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