

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - 1200 Taraval Street (aka Parkside Library)]

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3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code of**
4 **1200 Taraval Street (aka Parkside Library) in the Sunset District, Assessor’s Parcel**
5 **Block No. 2351, Lot No. 001.**

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

9 WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library, a branch library of the San Francisco library
10 system, situated within McCoppin Square Park, 1200 Taraval Street, Assessor’s Parcel Block
11 No. 2351, Lot No. 001, was built in 1951 by architectural firm Appleton & Wolfard; and

12 WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library is part of the premises of McCoppin Square Park,
13 which is operated by the Recreation and Parks Department; and

14 WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library was one of eight branch libraries constructed
15 between 1951 and 1966, during a focused building campaign by the City and County of San
16 Francisco; and

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s branch library building campaign of the 1950s and 1960s
18 focused on modern library theories, practices, and programming, consistent with an
19 unprecedented commitment at the local, state, and national levels toward the development of
20 public library systems and modernization of library services and functions, in particular with
21 the passage of the 1956 Library Services Act; and

22 WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library conveys the broad trend of social and cultural
23 shifts in post-war American library programming and design and is a reflection of principles of
24 the modern public library promoted by the American Library Association after World War II;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library embodies the principles of mid-twentieth century
2 American public library design, including basic characteristics such as simplicity of form,
3 openness, and functional layout, and displays a signature style developed by Appleton &
4 Wolfard for the branch libraries constructed during this building campaign; and

5 WHEREAS, The design for Parkside Branch Library received a lot of positive attention
6 and served as a proto-type building, embodying modern library theory, for the seven other
7 libraries that were constructed during this building campaign; and

8 WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library evokes a residential character and scale, with
9 strong influences from informal Scandinavian architectural designs of the period, in a manner
10 that identifies it as the product of the firm Appleton & Wolfard; and

11 WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library received national acclaim as an excellent
12 example of Mid-Century Modern design and represents an innovative example of this
13 architectural style in Northern California and in San Francisco; and

14 WHEREAS, Accolades for the Appleton & Wolfard designs of San Francisco's mid-
15 century branch libraries, including Parkside Branch Library, were published in local
16 newspapers and in prominent architectural publications such as, *Architect & Engineer* and
17 *Architectural Record*; and

18 WHEREAS, Despite being hailed by these publications soon after opening as one of
19 the finest libraries in the country, Parkside Branch Library is not recognized with any official
20 historical designation; and

21 WHEREAS, The architectural firm Appleton & Wolfard designed more branch libraries
22 in San Francisco than any other single firm in the city's history; and

23 WHEREAS, Appleton & Wolfard often collaborated with Modernist landscape
24 architects. The landscape and planters surrounding Parkside Branch Library were originally
25 designed by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin; and

1 WHEREAS, On October 7, 2009, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission,
2 adopted Resolution No. 638, wherein they found that the Appleton & Wolfard libraries
3 constructed during San Francisco's mid-century branch library building campaign meet
4 eligibility requirements for multiple-property listing on both the National Register and the
5 California Register and may warrant consideration for individual landmark designation; and

6 WHEREAS, On October 7, 2009, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission,
7 adopted Resolution No. 638, directing Planning Department staff to calendar initiation of
8 landmark designation and/or multiple property listing designation of Parkside Branch Library
9 for review by the Historic Preservation Commission to be held after completion of the Branch
10 Library Improvement Program project; and

11 WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library reopened in November 2010 after an extensive
12 renovation; the renovation was sympathetic and careful to respect Appleton & Wolfard's
13 influential design and vision; and

14 WHEREAS, The Parkside Branch Library has been recognized by preservation group
15 Parkside Heritage, an independent affinity group with San Francisco Heritage run by the
16 Parkside neighborhood, as an important local institution and a priority for landmark
17 designation projects in the Parkside District; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board hereby initiates landmark designation of Parkside Branch
19 Library in McCoppin Square Park, built in 1951, and located at 1200 Taraval Street; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Planning Department
21 prepare a Landmark Designation Report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission
22 for its consideration of the special historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and value of
23 Parkside Branch Library; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Historic Preservation
25 Commission consider whether Parkside Branch Library warrants landmark designation and

1 submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the Planning Code; and, be
2 it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic
4 Preservation Commission to respond to landmark designation initiations from the Board within
5 90 days, but that the Board of Supervisors may, by Resolution, extend the time within which
6 the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; therefore, in order to allow the
7 Planning Department more time to complete its review of this landmark designation, this
8 Resolution shall also serve as a 90-day extension of that deadline, for a total of 180 days to
9 respond starting from the transmittal date.

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