

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Sing Chong Building]

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3 **Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**  
4 **the Sing Chong Building, located at 615-625 Grant Avenue, Assessor's Parcel Block**  
5 **No. 0242, Lot No. 055.**

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7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by  
8 Resolution initiate landmark designations; 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 Sing Chong Building, located at 615-625 Grant Avenue, Assessor's  
14 Parcel Block No. 0242, Lot No. 055, was constructed in 1907 in the Chinatown neighborhood;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The property is significant for its association with Chinese cultural heritage  
17 and successful Chinese American businessman Look Tin Eli, who is credited with creating the  
18 pseudo-Chinese façade that would become Chinatown's distinctive trademark, and as the first  
19 building in the new Chinatown to feature "Chinese-looking" architectural elements designed by  
20 the architecture and engineering firm of Ross and Burgren; and

21 WHEREAS, The property exhibits extant character defining features, including a  
22 pagoda, curved canopies that resemble Chinese rooflines, dragon motifs, and red, green, and  
23 gold accents; and

24 WHEREAS, The property is included in the Eligible Chinatown National Register  
25 Historic District; and

1           WHEREAS, The property can be considered as an individually eligible historic resource  
2 based on its year built, extant character-defining features, architects of merit, cultural  
3 associations, and sufficient integrity; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the  
5 Sing Chong Building under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

6           FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a  
7 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its  
8 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of  
9 the Sing Chong Building; and, be it

10          FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic  
11 Preservation Commission consider whether the Sing Chong Building warrants landmark  
12 designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the  
13 Planning Code.

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