

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Transamerica Pyramid]

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3 **Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **the Transamerica Pyramid, located at 600 Montgomery Street, Assessor's Parcel Block**
5 **No. 0207, Lot No. 032.**

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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 Transamerica Pyramid, located at 600 Montgomery Street,
14 Assessor's Parcel Block No. 0207, Lot No. 032, was constructed in 1972 in the Financial
15 District; and

16 WHEREAS, The property is an excellent example of high style Brutalist architecture
17 designed by architect of merit William L. Pereira; and

18 WHEREAS, The property exhibits extant Brutalist features, including its exposed truss
19 base, pedestrian loggias, main pyramidal volume and two rectangular volumes, hollow spire
20 with vertically louvered aluminum panels, chamfered square columns, crushed quartz-
21 aggregate precast panels on a concrete and steel frame, windows with precast, quartz-
22 aggregate window surrounds, the interior lobby with crushed quartz-aggregate precast panels
23 and fully glazed storefront system, first story Annex with pyramidal-skylight roofs and fully
24 glazed sawtooth façade, Pedestrian Plaza with dark gray, exposed-aggregate concrete
25 paving, stepped, chamfered square seating areas and planter hardscaping and two cylindrical

1 cooling towers, and Redwood Park with landscaped berms featuring coast redwood trees,
2 poured-in-place, light exposed aggregate pavers, fountain with geometrical, irregular edge,
3 concrete benches, and concrete columnar light standards; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2011, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
5 San Francisco Modern Architecture and Landscape Design, 1935-1970 Historic Context
6 Statement, which provides an evaluative framework for consistent, informed evaluations of
7 San Francisco's Modern design buildings and landscapes;

8 WHEREAS, In 2023, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted
9 Architecture, Planning, & Preservation Professionals: A Collection of Biographies, which
10 includes an evaluative framework to provide standards for consistent, informed evaluations of
11 the city's various architecture professionals, including architect of merit William L. Pereira;

12 WHEREAS, Through its extant character defining features and applying the
13 documentation presented in the San Francisco Modern Architecture and Landscape Design,
14 1935-1970 Historic Context Statement and Architecture, Planning, & Preservation
15 Professionals: A Collection of Biographies, the property can be considered as an individually
16 eligible historic resource based on its year built, extant character-defining features, architect of
17 merit, and sufficient integrity; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the
19 Transamerica Pyramid under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
21 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
22 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
23 the Transamerica Pyramid; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
25 Preservation Commission consider whether the Transamerica Pyramid warrants landmark

1 designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the
2 Planning Code.

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