



LANDMARK DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: AUGUST 17, 2022

Record No.: 2022-005199DES

Project Address: Intersection of Turk Street and Taylor Streets and 101 Taylor Street (Site of the Compton’s Cafeteria Riot)

Zoning: None; RC-4
None; 80-T-120-T Height and Bulk District

Block/Lot: None, 0339/003

Project Sponsor: Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,
City Hall, Room 244,
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Property Owner: San Francisco Public Works (Streets and sidewalks)
City and County of San Francisco
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1600
San Francisco, CA 94103

WBP Leasing Inc (101 Taylor Street)
621 NW 53rd St. #700
Boca Raton, FL 33487

Staff Contact: Moses Corrette 628-652-7356
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Recommendation: Recommend Landmark Designation to the Board of Supervisors

Property Description

On June 7, 2022, the Board of Supervisors (BoS) adopted Resolution No. 283-22 to initiate landmark designation of the intersection of Turk and Taylor Streets [[LATITUDE: 37.78323 LONGITUDE: -122.41078], known historically as the site of the Compton’s Cafeteria Riot (“subject property”), pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code. Under Article 10, initiation and recommendation are two distinct steps of the landmark designation process which require separate hearings and resolutions. Initiation occurred by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors. Today’s hearing

is to determine if the Historic Preservation Commission will Recommend the Landmark to the Board of Supervisors.

In drafting the designation Fact Sheet, staff relied on the prior work of Shayne Watson and Donna Graves in the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco, 2015. That work itself is based on the scholarship of Dr. Susan Stryker who conducted much primary research on the event. Dr. Stryker also served as an expert reader for the staff report. To date, staff has received three letters of support from the public in favor of the designation.

The site is located within the boundaries of the Transgender District, one of several cultural districts in San Francisco. The Planning Department has been in communication with the leadership of the Transgender District, staff of former Supervisor Haney, several historians, activists and members of the public. Since the Board of Supervisors (BOS) initiated the Landmark, two factors have come to the attention of the Department. First, the initial initiation did not include the building that contained the Compton's Cafeteria itself; second, Public Works has been planning a project to reconstruct the intersection and adjacent blocks for the "Safer Taylor Street" project.

Inclusion of portions of 101 Taylor Street, the building that contained the Gene Compton's Cafeteria was not included in the initial initiation because of a false belief that Article 10 designation required owner consent. It does not. Learning this, and knowing that the Riot occurred both inside the diner and in the street, we [Transgender District leadership] think it appropriate to expand the Landmark to also include at least part of the building. As we [Transgender District leadership] plan for the future and our long-term vision of The Transgender District, we've made the decision to include the building in the landmark that was initiated.¹ A letter of support for the expanded boundaries has also been supplied by Supervisor Preston.

Staff has met with Maria Richard, Facility Director for the owners of 101 Taylor Street and have their support of the limited portions of the building being included in the designation. One ask from Ms. Richard is to be excluded from the need of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the creation of any future murals, which staff has not included in the draft Ordinance, but the HPC may direct should the members support that exclusion.

Planning Code Section 1004.2(b) states in part: "Where the Board of Supervisors has referred an initiation of designation to the HPC, the HPC shall hold a public hearing and shall approve, disapprove or modify the proposal ..." therefore, the Department is requesting the HPC modify the proposal to include portions of the exterior of 101 Taylor Street in the designation. As the exterior of the ground floor has seen significant alterations and no portion of the interior remains, staff recommends that only the exterior portions of the building where the diner formerly occupied be included. The Department's recommended boundaries include the lower 11-feet of the building wall (the height of the storefront) for 40-feet from the corner westward on Turk Street and for 52-feet northward on Taylor Street, being the exterior dimensions of the storefront where the Compton's Cafeteria occupied in 1966.

Safer Taylor Street project: Public Works and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has collaborated with the Tenderloin community to developed a new vision for Taylor Street between Turk and Ellis streets to improve transportation safety and livability for all users of this corridor. The Safer Taylor Street project

¹ Email from Jupiter Peraza of The Transgender District to Kyle Smeallie, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Preston June 2, 2022.

will provide transportation safety and streetscape improvements along Taylor Street, including sidewalk widening, pedestrian crosswalks, corner bulbouts, new traffic signals, and streetscape enhancement such as decorative paving, new street trees and street furnishing.²

Planning Code Section 1005(e)(4) excludes the Safer Tylor Street scope from a Certificate of Appropriateness. It reads: "When the application is for a permit to maintain, repair, rehabilitate, or improve streets and sidewalks, including sidewalk widening, accessibility, and bulb-outs, unless such streets and sidewalks have been explicitly called out in a landmark's or district's designating ordinance as character defining features of the landmark or district." No identified character-defining features are located in the public right-of way.

The seven aspects of Integrity are: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As a resource significant for association for an event, certain aspects of integrity are more relevant than others. The location, setting feeling and association remain intact, as the essential characteristics of an urban intersection are unchanged. Workmanship, design and materials are less important. The storefront that had contained the Compton's Cafeteria has undergone two significant changes since 1966 and is no longer an active storefront. The design and materials have been changed, yet it is still completely recognizable as the location, setting, feeling and associations are extant.

The item before the HPC is consideration of a Resolution to Recommend Article 10 landmark designation of the subject property to the Board of Supervisors under Article 10 of the Planning Code, Section 1004.1.

Basis for Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors landmark designation of the "**Site of the Compton's Cafeteria Riot**" as it is individually eligible for association the first large-scale collective direct action on the part of people marginalized by sexuality/gender that resulted in lasting institutional change, surpassing Cooper Donut in impact, Dewey's in militancy, and preceding the more important/larger Stonewall in time. By acting collectively, instead of as individuals, members of the community were able to further the cause to enable a greater freedom of gender expression without oppression. Moreover, after the Riot, the City's Health and Police Departments began to develop supportive programs for the transgender people in San Francisco, some of which would also enable people to gain access to State and Federal anti-poverty programs. The Riot to demand dignity succeeded in starting the long process to change society.

ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit A – Draft Resolution Recommending Landmark Designation
- Exhibit B – BOS Resolution No. 283-22 Initiating Landmark Designation
- Exhibit C – Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance
- Exhibit D – Landmark Designation Fact Sheet
- Exhibit E - Map and Context Images

² <https://sfpublicworks.org/2999J> accessed 7.7.2022