

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag Installation at Harvey Milk
2 Plaza]

3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code of**
4 **Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza at the southwest corner**
5 **of the intersection of Market Street and Castro Street.**

6
7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by
8 Resolution initiate a landmark designation; and

9 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza has been
10 an invaluable neighborhood asset in District 8 for over 26 years and contributes to the unique
11 arts and culture of San Francisco; and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco is the birthplace of the rainbow flag in 1978; and

13 WHEREAS, The rainbow flag has become a global symbol for the LGBTQ+
14 community, while the Rainbow Flag is an artwork created by Gilbert Baker; and

15 WHEREAS, On November 8, 1997, this Rainbow Flag was installed to commemorate
16 the 20th anniversary of the election of Harvey Milk to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,
17 this victory by an openly gay man was a watershed for the queer rights movement, since then,
18 open members of the LGBTQ+ community have been elected to many levels of public office
19 throughout the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, After Milk's election on November 8, 1977, many members of San
21 Francisco's LGBTQ+ community have been elected or appointed to office; and

22 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza is a political
23 artwork; and

1 WHEREAS, Since its installation, this Rainbow Flag, a site-specific artwork designed
2 by Gilbert Baker, a queer artist who had lived in San Francisco; has flown for 24-hours a day
3 year-round; and

4 WHEREAS, The artwork consists of a 6-striped banner, flagpole and metal plaque; and

5 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker is recognized as an important political artist; his six-color
6 Rainbow Flag is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the London
7 Design Museum, the Tang Museum, the Barack Obama Presidential Library in Chicago, the
8 Philadelphia Art Museum and many more esteemed institutions; and

9 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker created many monumental rainbow flags, but the Rainbow
10 Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza remains Baker's sole permanent installation; and

11 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza has
12 become a physical beacon of pride and self-empowerment - for both the residents of San
13 Francisco and for visitors from around the world; and

14 WHEREAS, The LGBTQ+ community is under attack; as right-wing activists and
15 legislators threaten trans rights and LGBTQ+ books and curricula, with more than 50 towns
16 and school districts across the United States have banned the Rainbow Flag - seven in
17 California alone; and

18 WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza deserves
19 recognition as a historically significant art installation; and

20 WHEREAS, The Gilbert Baker Foundation spurred interest for Landmark Designation
21 for Article 10 Landmark Designation for Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey
22 Milk Plaza; and

23 WHEREAS, As the birthplace of this global symbol, San Francisco can ensure that this
24 beacon of hope flies, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, in perpetuity, in defiance of those
25

1 who wish to erase sexual and gender minorities from the rainbow of humanity; now, therefore
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of Gilbert
4 Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza, under Planning Code, Section 1004.1;
5 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 Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
11 Preservation Commission consider whether Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at
12 Harvey Milk Plaza warrants landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the
13 Board according to Article 10 of the Planning Code.