FILE NO. 260588

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - Second Church of Christ Scientist]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the Second Church of Christ Scientist, located at 651 Dolores Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 3598, Lot Nos. 172-175, on the east side of Dolores Street between Cumberland Street and 20th Street, as a landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302, and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.

Existing Law

Under Article 10, Section 1004 of the Planning Code, the Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, designate an individual structure that has special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as a City landmark. Unless prohibited by state law, once a structure has been named a landmark, any construction, alteration, removal or demolition for which a City permit is required necessitates a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission. (Planning Code § 1006; Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, § 4.135.) Thus, landmark designation generally affords a high degree of protection to historic and architectural structures of merit in the City. There are currently more than 300 individual landmarks in the City under Article 10, in addition to structures and districts in the downtown area that are protected under Article 11. (See App. A to Article 10.)

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends the Planning Code to add a new historic landmark to the list of individual landmarks under Article 10: the Second Church of Christ Scientist, located at 651 Dolores Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 3598, Lot Nos. 172-175. The ordinance finds that the Second Church of Christ Scientist is eligible for local designation as an exemplary example of a Beaux-Arts Church in San Francisco, and for its association with post-1906 earthquake and fire reconstruction of the Mission Neighborhood. Completed in 1917, the steel-framed concrete and brick church was designed by Architect of Merit William Crim, who was one of the leading architects of the Pacific Coast from 1910-1930. The church was built as the Second Church of Christ Scientist and was used as a church for nearly 90 years until it was converted to residential use. The church includes three ornamented facades, temple like portico, and massive hemispherical dome. The parcel lies in an area heavily impacted by the 1906 Fires, known as the burn zone. Along with several other nearby houses of worship, the church was associated with the neighborhood's post disaster recovery efforts, constructed in the Mission neighborhood to be closer to congregants. Sited across the street

from Dolores Park (then Mission Park), the church's location was chosen in part because of its scenic location.

As required by Section 1004, the ordinance lists the particular features that shall be preserved, or replaced in-kind, as determined necessary.

Background Information

On May 20, 2026, after holding a public hearing on the proposed designation and having considered the specialized analyses reviewed by Planning Department staff and the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, the Historic Preservation Commission voted to recommend landmark designation of the Second Church of Christ Scientist to the Board of Supervisors.