

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - 524 Union Street (aka Paper Doll)]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate 524 Union Street (aka Paper Doll), Assessor's Parcel Block No. 0103, Lot No. 009, as a Landmark under 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. 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 ("HPC"). (Planning Code Section 1006; Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, Section 4.135.) Thus, landmark designation affords a high degree of protection to historic and architectural structures of merit in the City. There are currently more than 275 individual landmarks in the City under Article 10, in addition to other structures and districts in the downtown area that are protected under Article 11. (See Appendix A to Article 10.)

524 Union Street is not currently designated as a City landmark under Planning Code Article 10.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed legislation would amend the Planning Code to designate 524 Union Street (aka Paper Doll) as a City landmark under Article 10 of the Planning Code.

The ordinance finds that the Paper Doll is eligible for designation as a City landmark as it is significant as one of the earliest LGBTQ bars that is associated with the development of LGBTQ communities in San Francisco; and is also significant for its association with owner Dante Benedetti who became one of the people on the front lines in the fight for LGBTQ civil rights in San Francisco in the 1950s.

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

Background Information

FILE NO. 181107

The landmark designation was initiated by the HPC pursuant to its authority under the Charter to recommend approval, disapproval, or modification of landmark designations and historic district designations under the Planning Code to the Board of Supervisors.

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