File No.	200828
	200020

Committee Item	No.	
Board Item No.	55	

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Prepared by: Prepared by:	Jocelyn Wong	Date: Date:	September 25, 2020

1	[Preparation of Findings to Reverse the Categorical Exemption Determination - 617 Sanchez Street]
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3	Motion directing the Clerk of the Board to prepare findings reversing the determination
4	by the Planning Department that the proposed project at 617 Sanchez Street is
5	categorically exempt from further environmental review.
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7	WHEREAS, On April 8, 2019, the Planning Department issued a CEQA Categorical
8	Exemption Determination for the proposed project located at 2651-2653 Octavia Street
9	("Project") under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), the CEQA Guidelines,
10	and San Francisco Administrative Code, Chapter 31; and
11	WHEREAS, The approximately 2,600-square-foot project site (Assessor's Block 3600
12	and Lot 055) is located on Sanchez Street between 19th and Cumberland streets in the
13	Castro/Upper Market neighborhood. This block of Sanchez Street is a dead end with no
14	vehicle access to 19th Street; the Sanchez Street stairs provides pedestrian access from this
15	block of Sanchez Street to 19th Street. The surrounding area is characterized by residential
16	properties; and
17	WHEREAS, The subject site is a 105-foot by 25-foot lateral and down sloping lot that
18	contains a two-story, single-family home in the rear portion of the lot and a free-standing, one-
19	story garage structure at the front; and
20	WHEREAS, The Project consists of the demolition of the existing two-story, single-
21	family home and free- standing garage, and the construction of an approximately 4,200-

square-foot, single-family home. The proposed four-bedroom home would be approximately

27 feet in height at the front of the lot and 41-feet tall from grade to the top of the uppermost

roof at the rear of the lot. The Project contains one off-street parking space and one bicycle

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1	parking space and involves excavation to a depth of 16 feet resulting in approximately 650
2	cubic yards of soil removal; and
3	WHEREAS, The Planning Department, pursuant to Title 14 of the CEQA Guidelines
4	(California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15300-15333),
5	issued a categorical exemption for the Project on September 5, 2019, finding that the Project
6	is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a Class 3 categorical
7	exemption (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and that no further
8	environmental review was required; and
9	WHEREAS, On February 20, 2020, the Planning Commission passed a resolution
10	denying a discretionary review request at a public hearing which constituted the approval
11	action for the Project under CEQA; and
12	WHEREAS, On March 23, 2020, Sue Hestor on behalf of Joreg Rathenerg (hereinafter
13	appellant) filed an appeal of the categorical exemption determination to the Board of
14	Supervisors; and
15	WHEREAS, By memorandum to the Clerk of the Board dated June 29, 2020, the
16	Planning Department's Environmental Review Officer determined that the appeal was timely
17	filed; and
18	WHEREAS, On September 29, 2020, this Board held a duly noticed public hearing to
19	consider the appeal of the exemption determination filed by Appellant; and
20	WHEREAS, In reviewing the appeal of the exemption determination, this Board
21	reviewed and considered the exemption determination, the appeal letter, the responses to the
22	appeal documents that the Planning Department prepared, the other written records before
23	the Board of Supervisors and all of the public testimony made in support of and opposed to

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the exemption determination appeal; and

WHEREAS, Following the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors conditionally reversed the exemption determination subject to the adoption of written findings of the Board in support of such determination based on the written record before the Board of Supervisors, as well as all of the testimony at the public hearing in support of and opposed to the appeal; and

WHEREAS, The written record and oral testimony in support of and opposed to the appeal and deliberation of the oral and written testimony at the public hearing before the Board of Supervisors by all parties and the public in support of and opposed to the appeal of the exemption determination is in the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors File No. 200825, and is incorporated in this motion as though set forth in its entirety; now, therefore, be it

MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to prepare the findings specifying the basis for its decision on the appeal of the exemption determination issued by the Planning Department for the Project.

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Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp or meeting date I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one): 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment). 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee. 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee. 4. Request for letter beginning: "Supervisor inquiries" 5. City Attorney Request. from Committee. 6. Call File No. 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion). 8. Substitute Legislation File No. 9. Reactivate File No. 10. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following: Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission Ethics Commission **Building Inspection Commission** Planning Commission Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form. Sponsor(s): Clerk of the Board Subject: Preparation of Findings to Reverse the Categorical Exemption Determination - 617 Sanchez Street The text is listed: Motion directing the Clerk of the Board to prepare findings reversing the determination by the Planning Department that the proposed project at 617 Sanchez Street is categorically exempt from further environmental review.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

For Clerk's Use Only