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COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Completed h	y: Erica Major	Date [)ece	mber 30, 2020
-	v: Erica Major			ry 5, 2021

1	[Initiating Landmark Designation - One Montgomery Street]
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3	Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for
4	the architecturally and historically significant building at One Montgomery Street.
5	
6	WHEREAS, The existing building at One Montgomery Street was constructed in 1908
7	at its current location in the heart of the Financial District, an area of San Francisco that has
8	been commercial in character since the earliest development of the City and was effectively
9	leveled by the earthquake and fires that devastated much of San Francisco in 1906; and
10	WHEREAS, Following the 1906 earthquake disaster, San Francisco's political and
11	business community sought to quickly reestablish and rebuild the City's economy, foremost
12	the decimated banking businesses within downtown San Francisco, such as the existing
13	building at One Montgomery Street; a structure illustrative of post-disaster massive
14	reconstruction efforts; and
15	WHEREAS, The existing building at One Montgomery, built in 1908 in the Italian
16	Renaissance Revival style, was designed by Willis Polk, one of the most important, influential,
17	and prolific master architects ever to practice in San Francisco; and
18	WHEREAS, The existing building at One Montgomery is the former location of Wells
19	Fargo Bank, prior to that Crocker Bank, and originally, in 1908, First National Bank; and
20	WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery is listed in Here Today: San Francisco's
21	Architectural Heritage (1968) and described as having an "outstanding feature the rotunda
22	entrance supported by granite pillars"; and
23	WHEREAS, The existing building at One Montgomery is composed of two
24	interconnected, grand banking halls, the first of which, completed in 1908, was designed by
25	master architect Willis Polk; the second grand banking hall, completed in 1921, a northward

1	addition and an exact copy of the arcaded base and majestic bank interior constructed in
2	1908 was designed by renown master architect Charles E. Gottschalk; and
3	WHEREAS, The 1921 addition of the building at One Montgomery is documented in
4	Splendid Survivors, San Francisco's Downtown Architectural Heritage, and described as "this
5	extension made a grand interior even grander with its sumptuous marble furnishings, fluted
6	columns and coffered ceilings;" and
7	WHEREAS, The existing building at One Montgomery retains its monumental, double-
8	height, open volume interior, a major character-defining feature, one of downtown San
9	Francisco's most imposing spaces, a historic interior that has always been publicly accessible;
10	and
11	WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery is a critical urban element, a vital
12	pedestrian node, that occupies a key position at one of the important intersections in
13	downtown San Francisco, where Montgomery, Post and Market Streets meet, site of a
14	collection of monumental 20th century buildings, including the Hobart Building and Palace
15	Hotel; and
16	WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery is a significant contributor to San
17	Francisco's banking history, a major commercial sector in the City during the second half of
18	the 19th century through the 20th century; and
19	WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery is one of the nationally important banks
20	that symbolized the wealth of the West; and
21	WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery remains as one in a series of
22	architecturally imposing, Neo-Classical temple-fronted or historical revival edifices in
23	downtown San Francisco built of opulent materials, many now demolished or partially

demolished; and

24

25

1	WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery Street is listed in Here Today: San
2	Francisco's Architectural Heritage (1968), which was subsequently adopted by the San
3	Francisco Board of Supervisors through Resolution No. 268-70, and therefore qualifies as an
4	official local historical register under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
5	WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery received an A-rating in San Francisco's
6	Architectural Heritage Survey;
7	WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery Street is architecturally significant as the
8	combined work of two master architects and because of its status as an intact remaining
9	example of an early 20th century bank building with original interior elements in good
10	condition and; now, therefore be it
11	RESOLVED, That the Board hereby initiates landmark designation of the architecturally
12	significant and intact One Montgomery Street; and, be it
13	FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Planning Department
14	prepare a Landmark Designation Report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission
15	for its consideration of the special historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and value of
16	the existing building at One Montgomery Street; and, be it
17	FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Historic Preservation
18	Commission consider whether the existing building at One Montgomery warrants landmark
19	designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the
20	Planning Code.
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BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rich Hillis, Director, Planning Department

Jonas Ionin, Commission Secretary, Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: December 22, 2020

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Peskin on December 15, 2020:

File No. 201404

Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for the architecturally and historically significant building at One Montgomery Street.

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: erica.major@sfgov.org.

cc: Corey Teague, Planning Department
Dan Sider, Planning Department
Laura Lynch, Planning Department
Scott Sanchez, Planning Department
Lisa Gibson, Planning Department
Devyani Jain, Planning Department
Adam Varat, Planning Department
AnMarie Rodgers, Planning Department
Aaron Starr, Planning Department
Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, Deputy City Attorney
Joy Navarrete, Planning Department

Print Form

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. 6. Call File No. from Committee. 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion). 8. Substitute Legislation File No. 9. Reactivate File No. 10. Topic 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): Peskin Subject: [Initiating Landmark Designation – One Montgomery Street] The text is listed: Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for the architecturally and historically significant building at One Montgomery Street.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: /s/ Aaron Peskin

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