

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
24 demolished; and

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.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 201404

Date Passed: January 12, 2021

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

January 04, 2021 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED

January 12, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 201404

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/12/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

1/22/21

Date Approved