Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code to add section 5.240 establishing the City Hall Preservation Advisory Commission.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding Article XXIV, to read as follows:

Article XXIV CITY HALL PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

SEC. 5.240. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.

There shall be established a City Hall Preservation Advisory Commission for the purpose of ensuring that City Hall is maintained and preserved in a manner befitting its historic and architectural significance. San Francisco’s City Hall is a national landmark and a valued legacy to the people of this city. After its completion in 1915, it suffered a process of gradual alteration and degradation until the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 forced its temporary closure. Inadequate repair and maintenance contributed to the decline. Between 1989 and 2000, in addition to earthquake retrofitting, the City did extensive work to repair and refurbish City Hall and to reverse many alterations which had compromised the building’s historical integrity. This Commission is intended to be an advisory body responsible for ensuring that the building’s historical character and beauty are preserved henceforth and that the facilities are maintained according to the highest standard and not allowed to fall into disrepair.

SEC. 5.241. MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION.
(a) The Commission shall consist of five members appointed by the Mayor, and confirmed by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors and serving at his or her pleasure. The Mayor shall designate three of his or her initial appointments to serve for two-year terms and two for four-year terms. Thereafter, all members shall serve for four-year terms. The terms are to commence on the date of the first meeting of the Commission, which may not occur until all five members have been appointed.

(b) At least one member of the Commission shall have documented expertise in the area of building maintenance and repair. At least one member shall have documented expertise in the area of historic building preservation. At least one member shall have documented expertise in the history of City Hall.

(c) Vacancies shall be filled by the Mayor, and confirmed by the Board, for the remainder of the term. The Commission shall, at its initial meeting and annually thereafter, elect one of its members to chair the Commission.

(d) Services of the members of the Commission shall be voluntary and members will serve without compensation.

(e) The Director of Administrative Services, or his/her designee, shall attend meetings of the Commission and provide staff support.

SEC 5.242. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

The Commission shall have the following duties:

(a) Conduct meetings as necessary, but not less than once monthly;

(b) Conduct public hearings and advise the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, and the Director of Administrative Services, as appropriate, on the following matters:

(1) budgetary issues related to the operation, maintenance, repair and preservation of City Hall;

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(2) requests for use, modification, or alteration of City Hall facilities;

(3) maintenance and operation of City Hall consistent with its stature and dignity as a national landmark and as the seat of City government;

(4) displays of historical significance in the South Light Court and in other areas of City Hall;

(5) improvements and acquisitions which would enhance the historical character of City Hall;

(6) any other matter affecting the use, operation or maintenance of City Hall.

(c) Solicit donations to the City for the benefit of City Hall; both of a financial nature as well as of artworks and historically significant artifacts which would be appropriate for display. Any such gifts shall be subject to the applicable approval and acceptance processes as set forth in the Charter.

(d) Keep records of acquisitions, donations, modifications, major repairs and Commission recommendations and compile an annual report to be submitted to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors.

SEC. 5.243. REFERRAL TO THE COMMISSION.

(a) The Director of Administrative Services shall promptly notify the Commission and provide opportunity for comment before he or she adopts policies or procedures affecting the operation or maintenance of City Hall, and before he or she makes or approves alterations to City Hall.

(b) The secretary of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board shall notify the Commission within ten days of receipt of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness affecting City Hall. The secretary shall provide all relevant information, including the date and time of the hearing. Any recommendations which the Commission makes shall be included in the record of the application by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board.

SEC. 5.244. STANDARDS FOR PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION.
In carrying out its duties, the Commission shall be guided by accepted standards for restoration, preservation, and maintenance of historic structures, including, where applicable and feasible, standards for historic preservation, maintenance, recordation, and documentation of landmarks promulgated by the United States Department of the Interior or its successor.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: Virginia Dario Elizondo
Deputy City Attorney
Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code to add Section 5.240 establishing the City Hall Preservation Advisory Commission.

February 24, 2004 Board of Supervisors — PASSED ON FIRST READING
Ayes: 10 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Gonzalez, Hall, Ma, Maxwell, Peskin, Sandoval
Excused: 1 - McGoldrick

March 9, 2004 Board of Supervisors — FINALLY PASSED
Ayes: 9 - Alioto-Pier, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval
Excused: 2 - Ammiano, Dufty
I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was FINALLY PASSED on March 9, 2004 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom