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

WHEREAS, The existing building at One Montgomery Street was constructed in 1908 at its current location in the heart of the Financial District, an area of San Francisco that has been commercial in character since the earliest development of the City and was effectively leveled by the earthquake and fires that devastated much of San Francisco in 1906; and

WHEREAS, Following the 1906 earthquake disaster, San Francisco's political and business community sought to quickly reestablish and rebuild the City's economy, foremost the decimated banking businesses within downtown San Francisco, such as the existing building at One Montgomery Street; a structure illustrative of post-disaster massive reconstruction efforts; and

WHEREAS, The existing building at One Montgomery, built in 1908 in the Italian Renaissance Revival style, was designed by Willis Polk, one of the most important, influential, and prolific master architects ever to practice in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The existing building at One Montgomery is the former location of Wells Fargo Bank, prior to that Crocker Bank, and originally, in 1908, First National Bank; and

WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery is listed in *Here Today: San Francisco’s Architectural Heritage* (1968) and described as having an “outstanding feature – the rotunda entrance supported by granite pillars”; and

WHEREAS, The existing building at One Montgomery is composed of two interconnected, grand banking halls, the first of which, completed in 1908, was designed by master architect Willis Polk; the second grand banking hall, completed in 1921, a northward
addition and an exact copy of the arcaded base and majestic bank interior constructed in
1908 was designed by renown master architect Charles E. Gottschalk; and

WHEREAS, The 1921 addition of the building at One Montgomery is documented in
_Splendid Survivors, San Francisco’s Downtown Architectural Heritage_, and described as “this
extension made a grand interior even grander with its sumptuous marble furnishings, fluted
columns and coffered ceilings;” and

WHEREAS, The existing building at One Montgomery retains its monumental, double-
height, open volume interior, a major character-defining feature, one of downtown San
Francisco’s most imposing spaces, a historic interior that has always been publicly accessible;
and

WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery is a critical urban element, a vital
pedestrian node, that occupies a key position at one of the important intersections in
downtown San Francisco, where Montgomery, Post and Market Streets meet, site of a
collection of monumental 20th century buildings, including the Hobart Building and Palace
Hotel; and

WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery is a significant contributor to San
Francisco’s banking history, a major commercial sector in the City during the second half of
the 19th century through the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery is one of the nationally important banks
that symbolized the wealth of the West; and

WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery remains as one in a series of
architecturally imposing, Neo-Classical temple-fronted or historical revival edifices in
downtown San Francisco built of opulent materials, many now demolished or partially
demolished; and

Supervisor Peskin
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery Street is listed in *Here Today: San Francisco’s Architectural Heritage* (1968), which was subsequently adopted by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors through Resolution No. 268-70, and therefore qualifies as an official local historical register under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery received an A-rating in *San Francisco’s Architectural Heritage* Survey;

WHEREAS, The building at One Montgomery Street is architecturally significant as the combined work of two master architects and because of its status as an intact remaining example of an early 20th century bank building with original interior elements in good condition and; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board hereby initiates landmark designation of the architecturally significant and intact One Montgomery Street; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a Landmark Designation Report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its consideration of the special historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and value of the existing building at One Montgomery Street; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Historic Preservation Commission consider whether the existing building at One Montgomery warrants landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the Planning Code.
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

Date Approved

1/22/21