Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for Lincoln Park, formerly known as City Cemetery, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot No. 029; and extending the prescribed time within which the Historic Preservation Commission may render its decision by 90 days, for a total of 180 days.

WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors (Board) may by Resolution initiate landmark designation; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Park was once a part of a 200-acre burial ground known as City Cemetery that was a resting place for at least 23,000 people; and

WHEREAS, City Cemetery, also known as Golden Gate Cemetery, was the only municipal burial place for the indigent dead in San Francisco between the 1860s and early 1900s; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors granted sections of the cemetery to benevolent, social, and religious societies for interment of their members; and

WHEREAS, At least 24 different societies were granted sections, which included the Knights of Pythias, Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows of America, Italian Mutual Benevolent Society, the Society of Old Friends, Grand Army of the Republic, Beth Israel, Congregation Schaar Zedeck, City and County of San Francisco, Hop Wo Association, the German Benevolent Society, St. Andrew’s Society and Caledonian Club, Master Mariners’ Benevolent Society, Scandinavian Society, French Benevolent Society, Improved Order of Red Men, Japanese Colony of San Francisco, Ladies’ Seamen’s Friend Society, Qui Son Tong Company, Congregation Sherith Israel, Christian Chinese Society, Ning Yung Association, Chuck Sen Tong Company, Greek Russian Slavonian Benevolent Society,
Slavonic Mutual Benevolent Society, and other Chinese societies that were not granted formal claim to specific sections; and

WHEREAS, After Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot No. 029 was reclassified as a municipal park in 1909, the benevolent, social, and religious societies with cemetery sections were given six months to disinter the remains of their buried dead, which occurred in a scattered and disorganized fashion throughout the time allotted, and as indicated by municipal reports, removal continued as late as 1916; and

WHEREAS, It remains unclear which societies removed their dead and how many burials were removed because no registers, records, or deeds about the cemetery have survived; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Park is still home to a spire monument erected by the Ladies’ Seamen’s Friend Society, a society that cared for indigent merchant marine sailors, especially those with disabilities, and took it upon themselves to give these sailors proper burials at the City Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, After 1878, the remains of deceased Chinese persons were transported to City Cemetery where they were temporarily buried until a bone collector disinterred the fully decomposed remains and prepared the bones for transport to the deceased’s home village, which was in accordance with Chinese burial practices of the time; and

WHEREAS, The burial of the deceased in the Chinese section of City Cemetery was an occasion for religious rites that included prayer, the burning of incense, food offerings of roast pig and fowl, and the burning of symbolic paper money and clothes for the deceased’s journeys in the afterlife; and

WHEREAS, The Kong Chow funerary chapel in Lincoln Park is the last remaining structure that was designated to host these ceremonies in City Cemetery; and
WHEREAS, The Kong Chow chapel is still inscribed with characters that read “Temporary Resting Place for Kong Chow Coffins Before Burial,” and “Temporary Resting Place for Coffins Being Sent to Kong Chow Province,” and still retains an altar area where incense and offerings were burnt; and

WHEREAS, The Kong Chow Funerary Chapel stands as a symbol of Chinese culture and history in San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board hereby initiates a landmark designation of Lincoln Park, the site formerly known as City Cemetery, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot No. 029., under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it; 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 unique historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and value of the property and existing house and structures; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Historic Preservation Commission consider whether the property or existing structures warrant landmark designation, and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the Planning Code; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic Preservation Commission to respond to landmark designation initiations from the Board within 90 days, but that the Board of Supervisors may, by resolution, extend the time within which the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; therefore, in order to allow the Planning Department more time to complete its review of this landmark designation, this Resolution shall also serve as a 90-day extension of that deadline, for a total of 180 days to respond starting from the transmittal date.
Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for Lincoln Park, formerly known as City Cemetery, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 1313, Lot No. 029; and extending the prescribed time within which the Historic Preservation Commission may render it’s decision by 90 days, for a total of 180 days.

July 26, 2021 Land Use and Transportation Committee - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING NEW TITLE

July 26, 2021 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED AS A COMMITTEE REPORT

July 27, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

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

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/27/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

8/4/21
Date Approved