Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code of 1200 Taraval Street (aka Parkside Library) in the Sunset District, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 2351, Lot No. 001.

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

WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library, a branch library of the San Francisco library system, situated within McCoppin Square Park, 1200 Taraval Street, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 2351, Lot No. 001, was built in 1951 by architectural firm Appleton & Wolfard; and

WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library is part of the premises of McCoppin Square Park, which is operated by the Recreation and Parks Department; and

WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library was one of eight branch libraries constructed between 1951 and 1966, during a focused building campaign by the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s branch library building campaign of the 1950s and 1960s focused on modern library theories, practices, and programming, consistent with an unprecedented commitment at the local, state, and national levels toward the development of public library systems and modernization of library services and functions, in particular with the passage of the 1956 Library Services Act; and

WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library conveys the broad trend of social and cultural shifts in post-war American library programing and design and is a reflection of principles of the modern public library promoted by the American Library Association after World War II; and

Supervisors Mar; Chan, Melgar, Peskin
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library embodies the principles of mid-twentieth century American public library design, including basic characteristics such as simplicity of form, openness, and functional layout, and displays a signature style developed by Appleton & Wolfard for the branch libraries constructed during this building campaign; and

WHEREAS, The design for Parkside Branch Library received a lot of positive attention and served as a proto-type building, embodying modern library theory, for the seven other libraries that were constructed during this building campaign; and

WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library evokes a residential character and scale, with strong influences from informal Scandinavian architectural designs of the period, in a manner that identifies it as the product of the firm Appleton & Wolfard; and

WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library received national acclaim as an excellent example of Mid-Century Modern design and represents an innovative example of this architectural style in Northern California and in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Accolades for the Appleton & Wolfard designs of San Francisco's mid-century branch libraries, including Parkside Branch Library, were published in local newspapers and in prominent architectural publications such as, Architect & Engineer and Architectural Record; and

WHEREAS, Despite being hailed by these publications soon after opening as one of the finest libraries in the country, Parkside Branch Library is not recognized with any official historical designation; and

WHEREAS, The architectural firm Appleton & Wolfard designed more branch libraries in San Francisco than any other single firm in the city's history; and

WHEREAS, Appleton & Wolfard often collaborated with Modernist landscape architects. The landscape and planters surrounding Parkside Branch Library were originally designed by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin; and
WHEREAS, On October 7, 2009, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission, adopted Resolution No. 638, wherein they found that the Appleton & Wolfard libraries constructed during San Francisco's mid-century branch library building campaign meet eligibility requirements for multiple-property listing on both the National Register and the California Register and may warrant consideration for individual landmark designation; and

WHEREAS, On October 7, 2009, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission, adopted Resolution No. 638, directing Planning Department staff to calendar initiation of landmark designation and/or multiple property listing designation of Parkside Branch Library for review by the Historic Preservation Commission to be held after completion of the Branch Library Improvement Program project; and

WHEREAS, Parkside Branch Library reopened in November 2010 after an extensive renovation; the renovation was sympathetic and careful to respect Appleton & Wolfard's influential design and vision; and

WHEREAS, The Parkside Branch Library has been recognized by preservation group Parkside Heritage, an independent affinity group with San Francisco Heritage run by the Parkside neighborhood, as an important local institution and a priority for landmark designation projects in the Parkside District; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board hereby initiates landmark designation of Parkside Branch Library in McCoppin Square Park, built in 1951, and located at 1200 Taraval 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 Parkside Branch Library; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Historic Preservation Commission consider whether Parkside Branch Library warrants 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 of 1200 Taraval Street (aka Parkside Library) in the Sunset District, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 2351, Lot No. 001.

December 12, 2022 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED AS COMMITTEE REPORT

December 13, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/13/2022 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
12/22/22