

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING THE AZTECA THEATER (TEATRO AZTECA) LOCATED AT 836-840 F STREET FRESNO, CALIFORNIA TO THE LOCAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

WHEREAS, by the 1930s Fresno had the largest Mexican community in the San Joaquin Valley with a resident population of 6,000 which grew to 10,000 each harvest;

WHEREAS, the Azteca Theater opened on November 30, 1948 in Fresno's Chinatown with a program of Spanish language films from the Golden Age of Mexican cinema which catered to Fresno's growing *Mexicano* community;

WHEREAS, under the management of Mexican-born entertainer and entrepreneur, Arturo Tirado, the theater served as a venue for appearances by the leading film stars of the Mexican cinema including Maria Felix, Agustin Lara, Pedro Armendariz, Antonio Aguilar and Pedro Infante;

WHEREAS, the Azteca Theater also served as a community center for the Latino community;

WHEREAS, on March 24, 1966 Caesar Chavez and striking farmworkers held a rally at the Azteca which attracted a crowd of 1,000 people;

WHEREAS, the Azteca Theater was designed by an English-born architect J.C. Johnson in a restrained Art Deco retro style with a stepped parapet and a blade sign stating the theater's name, "Azteca";

Date Adopted:  
Date Approved:  
Effective Date:  
City Attorney Approval:     *ta*    

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the property was evaluated as individually eligible for both the California Register of Historical Resources and the Local Register of Historic Resources in the 2006 Chinatown Historic Survey and the 2010/2011 survey prepared for the High Speed Rail Authority for its distinctive characteristics as a single-screen neighborhood theater in the Art Deco style;

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno's preservation staff and Historic Preservation Commission have additionally found that the theater is also eligible to the California and Local Registers for its association with the theater manager and civic leader, Arturo Tirado;

WHEREAS, the property owner, David Owens, supports the designation of the building to Fresno's Local Official Register of Historic Resources;

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Commission, at a duly noticed public hearing held on September 28, 2015, heard testimony on the subject property;

WHEREAS, based on that testimony, and the presentation of facts relating to the criteria for official designation, as set forth in the Fresno Municipal Code, Chapter 12, Article 16, made the following findings;

That the Azteca Theater meets the criteria set out in Article 16, Chapter 12, Section 12-1607 (a) of the Fresno Municipal Code; and is eligible for listing on Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources; and be recommended to the Fresno City Council for adoption as a Local Resource; and whereas in accordance with Fresno Municipal Code, Article 16 Section 12-1601 et seq. this hearing has been duly noticed for Council action upon the designation recommended by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2015, Council held a hearing where it considered the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission, and considered substantial evidence, including but not limited to, staff presentation, a report prepared by staff addressing the property's eligibility to the Local Register, a Primary Record ("PR") and a Building, Structure and Object Record ("BSOR") prepared by the City's Historic Preservation Specialist (as defined in FMC § 12-1604(b)) finding that the property met the Historic Resource eligibility requirements for criteria i, ii and iii to subdivision 12-1607(a)(1).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. Council finds that the above recitals are true and correct.
2. Council finds that the Azteca Theater is eligible for listing under criteria i, ii and iii of Fresno Municipal Code, subdivision 12-1607(a)(1) based upon the evidence presented to Council in the staff presentation, staff report, the PR and the BSOR.
3. Council designates the Azteca Theater a Historic Resource to the Local Register of Historic Resources.

\*\*\*\*\*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF FRESNO ) ss.  
CITY OF FRESNO )

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

AYES :  
NOES :  
ABSENT :  
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015  
Mayor Approval/No Return: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015  
Mayor Veto: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015  
Council Override Vote: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

YVONNE SPENCE, CMC  
City Clerk

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Talia Kolluri-Barbick Date  
Senior Deputy City Attorney