

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

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING ARMENIAN TOWN, WHICH INCLUDES ALL PROPERTIES DESCRIBED IN ATTACHMENT A, AS A LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

WHEREAS, by the First World War 10,000 Armenians had settled in Fresno, refugees from the genocide that occurred in Turkey and Armenia;

WHEREAS, a 64-block "Armenian Town" developed between the two World Wars bounded by Broadway on the west, the Southern Pacific tracks on the south, O Street on the east, and Kern Street on the north, due in part to the restrictive covenants that precluded settlement in other parts of the City;

WHEREAS, "Armenian Town" included residences, bakeries, schools and churches, including the home of one of Fresno's leading citizens, writer William Saroyan;

WHEREAS, Although State Route 41 cut a swath through the heart of this community, numerous buildings, including the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, the Valley Lahvosh Bakery, working class cottages and commercial buildings associated with the Armenian Community are extant;

WHEREAS, beginning in 2002 the City of Fresno and the former Redevelopment Agency initiated a process that led to the relocation and rehabilitation of five homes and a summer kitchen to the southeast corner of Santa Clara and M Streets, all buildings which have an association with the Armenian community;

WHEREAS, three of the six properties located on the parcel known as the “Armenian Town Project” are designated on Fresno’s Local Register of Historic Resources and the remaining three are protected by the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared in 2002 and have therefore been treated as historical resources pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);

WHEREAS, it is the intent to officially designate all of the Armenian Town Project properties, several properties found eligible in the City’s 2015 South Van Ness Industrial District Survey as well buildings currently listed on a historic register within the boundaries of a non-contiguous Historic District;

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2016 the City of Fresno’s Historic Preservation Commission adopted a motion requesting that staff pursuant to FMC 12-1610(a) prepare an Initial Application for an Armenian Town Historic District;

WHEREAS, at the public hearing on June 27, 2016 staff submitted an Initial Application for an Armenian Town Historic District and the Commission, with input from the property owners within the District, adopted the Initial Application;

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2016 staff presented a Formal Application for an Armenian Town Historic District with a revised District map to the Historic Preservation Commission at a public hearing;

WHEREAS, the proposed Armenian Town Historic District includes 11 parcels with 17 resources within a non-contiguous District pursuant to FMC 12-1603(s);

WHEREAS, the properties identified in Attachment “A” are proposed to be included within the Armenian Town Historic District;

WHEREAS, pursuant to FMC 12-1607(b) City staff has communicated with the property owners and a majority support the designation of their respective properties as contributors to the Armenian Town Historic District;

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Commission, at a duly noticed public hearing held on November 14, 2016 considered substantial evidence in the form of a staff presentation, staff report, the District Record (“DR”) and heard testimony on the Formal Application for a proposed district;

WHEREAS, based on the 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 Armenian Town Historic District meets the criteria set out in Article 16, Chapter 12, Section 12-1607 (b) 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 Historic District; 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 January 12, 2017, Council held a hearing where it considered the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission, and substantial evidence, including but not limited to, a staff presentation, a report prepared by staff addressing the District’s eligibility to the Local Register, a District Record (“DR”) and a Primary Record (“PR”) for each property within the proposed District prepared by the City’s Historic Preservation Specialist (as defined in FMC § 12-1604(b)) finding that the proposed Armenian Town Historic District falls within the definition of a Local Historic District, as set forth in Fresno Municipal Code, section 12-1603(s) as it met eligibility

requirements for criteria i, ii, and iii to subdivision 12-1607(b) with a Period of Significance of 1899-2012.

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 Armenian Town Historic District falls within the definition of a Local Historic District set forth in Fresno Municipal Code, section 12-1603(s), its designation is consented to by the majority of the property owners within the proposed District, at least fifty percent of the resources within the proposed District are fifty years of age or older, and is eligible for listing under criteria i, ii and iii of the Fresno Municipal Code, subdivision 12-1607(b) based upon the evidence presented to Council in the staff presentation, staff report, the HPSR, DR and the PRs.
3. Council designates the Armenian Town Historic District to the Local Register of Historic Resources.
4. Council finds that all the properties identified in Attachment A are contributors to the Armenian Town Historic District.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

AYES :  
NOES :  
ABSENT :  
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017  
Mayor Approval/No Return: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017  
Mayor Veto: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017  
Council Override Vote: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

YVONNE SPENCE, CMC  
City Clerk

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

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Seth Mehrten Date  
Deputy City Attorney

**Appendix A:**  
**List of Properties as Contributors to the Proposed Armenian Town Historic District**

<b>Map Reference#</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>APN</b>
01	Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Complex (HP# 019)	2226 Ventura Street 468-225-19
02	Valley Lahvosh Baking Company (HP#237)	502 "M" Street and 2319 Santa Clara Street 468-222-17
03	The John Schmidt Home (HP#055)	2320 Santa Clara Street 468-223-20T
04	John Schmidt Summer Kitchen (HP#055)	450 "M" Street 468-223-20T
05	The Alijian-Hoonanian Residence (HP#203)	496 "M" Street 468-223-20T
06	The Damirgian Brothers Home	484 "M" Street 468-223-20T
07	The George Adams Home	472 "M" Street 468-223-20T
08	The A. Tolikian-Lyman Tasjian Residence	460 "M" Street 468-223-20T
09	The Dirouhi Nishkian Home	332 "M" Street 468-231-14
10	Vacant Parcel	468-231-13
11	The Luther Gray/Shanin Der Boghosian Home	320 "M" Street 468-231-12
12	The John G. Foley Home	303 "M" Street 468-234-29
13	The Neverman Home (HP#097)	309 "M" Street 468-234-06
14	Vacant Parcel	468-234-05
15	The Andreas Bazolan Home	321 "M" Street 468-234-04
16	The Francis J. Haber Home	340 Van Ness Avenue 468-271-19
17	The Hooliani Gafarian Home	342 Van Ness Avenue 468-271-19