

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

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, RESCINDING THE HERITAGE PROPERTY DESIGNATION OF THE HARUJI EGO FAMILY BUILDING (HR #008) LOCATED AT 956 CHINA ALLEY DUE TO A LOSS OF APPLICABILITY

WHEREAS, the Haruji Ego Family Building located at 956 China Alley was built prior to 1906 in an early twentieth century style; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno maintains a List of Designated Heritage Properties for the purpose of recognizing, preserving, and protecting sites with historical, architectural, or aesthetic merit but which are not proposed for and are not designated as Historic Resources; and

WHEREAS, the Haruji Ego Family Building was determined to meet the level of significance necessary for designating as a Heritage Property list under Criterion iii, embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type; in this case, one of the few surviving examples of the very narrow, long buildings typically built in the core of Chinatown in the late nineteenth century; and

WHEREAS, the Haruji Ego Family Building located at 956 China Alley was placed on the City's Heritage Property List by the Historic Preservation Commission on February 26, 2007, based on the criteria and process in effect at that time; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2025, the Haruji Ego Family Building was affected by a devastating fire in an adjacent building which resulted in the need to demolish the building as an immediate threat to public safety; and

Date Adopted:

Date Approved:

Effective Date:

City Attorney Approval: OB

Resolution No.

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2025, a fire occurred in the adjacent structure at 1528 Tulare, resulting in extensive fire damage to and collapse of that structure; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2025, the City's Chief Building Official inspected the Haruji Ego Family Building and found severe structural fatigue, compromised foundation, and compromised structural components throughout, leading to high risk of collapse; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Building Official determined the conditions pose an imminent danger to the public and recommended that an immediate emergency demolition be performed; and

WHEREAS, the demolition resulted in a complete loss of the building and of all architectural or aesthetic merit; and

WHEREAS, Fresno Municipal Code Section 12-1612(f) provides that a Heritage Property designation may be rescinded if City Council finds that the resource does not satisfy the requirements or that circumstances exist to make the Heritage Property designation no longer applicable; and

WHEREAS, due to the fire, the Haruji Ego Family Building has lost integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and can no longer convey significance as exemplifying the architectural typology of Chinatown; and

WHEREAS, based on that testimony, and the presentation of facts relating to the criteria for Heritage designation, as set forth in the Fresno Municipal Code, Chapter 12, Article 1612(a)(4), City Council makes the following findings:

That the Haruji Ego Family Building no longer is eligible for designation as a City of Fresno Heritage Property due to a loss of integrity from fire and subsequent demolition; and whereas in accordance with Fresno Municipal Code, Article 16, Section 12-16 et seq. this hearing has been duly noticed

for Council action upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Historic Preservation Commission;

and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2026, Council held a hearing where it considered the recommendation of the Secretary, and considered substantial evidence, finding that the property no longer meets the requirements for designation as a Heritage Property pursuant to FMC Section 12-1612.

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 Haruji Ego Family Building is no longer eligible for designation as a Heritage Property based upon the evidence presented to the Council.
3. Council rescinds the designation of the Haruji Ego Family Building located at 956 China Alley as a Heritage Property.
4. This resolution shall be effective upon final approval

\* \* \* \* \*

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

I, AMY K. ALLER, Interim 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

AYES :  
NOES :  
ABSENT :  
ABSTAIN :

AMY K. ALLER  
Interim City Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
ANDREW JANZ  
City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Darcy Brown Date  
Deputy City Attorney