

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN HISTORIC DISTRICT IN THE BAYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE CITY OF SAN MATEO, URGING THE SAN MATEO HERITAGE ALLIANCE TO WITHDRAW ITS HISTORIC DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR THE BAYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD, AND CALLING ON THE STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION TO REJECT THE APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Heritage Alliance has initiated the process to have the Baywood neighborhood listed as an historic district on the National Register of Historic Places, and if this status is granted, it could potentially lead to new requirements for obtaining permits for homeowner improvements, restrict the autonomy and freedom of homeowners to make changes to their homes, and limit the development of new housing; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Heritage Alliance circumvented the City of San Mateo's historic designation process and is attempting to bypass State housing laws that support equitable and affordable housing production; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Heritage Alliance has indicated that it intends to seek additional historic district designations for other San Mateo County neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, using the establishment of historic districts to block needed housing makes it harder to comply with Assembly Bill (AB) 686, which requires jurisdictions to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH) by combatting housing discrimination, eliminating racial bias, undoing historic patterns of segregation, and lifting barriers that

restrict access, in order to foster inclusive communities and to achieve racial equity and fair housing choice; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Supervisors is committed to affirmatively furthering fair housing; and

WHEREAS, there is a history of discrimination against people of color and immigrants seeking to reside in the Baywood neighborhood, including through the use of racial covenants that did not allow families from racial minorities to own or rent in the Baywood neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the racial covenants used for residences in the Baywood neighborhood typically provided that persons of African, Japanese, Chinese, Hindu, Indian, Korean or Mongolian descent, or persons “not wholly of the Caucasian race” would not be permitted to purchase, own, lease or occupy such residences, except in the capacity of domestic servants, gardeners or chauffeurs; and

WHEREAS, today, the Baywood neighborhood is the City of San Mateo’s only “Segregated Area of White Wealth,” as that term defined by the Bay Area Equity Atlas; and

WHEREAS, historic district status for the Baywood neighborhood could lead to new restrictions for homeowner improvements and the development of new housing, which could disrupt the opportunities for communities of color to buy, own, and rent homes in Baywood; and

WHEREAS, creating new bureaucratic hurdles and rules could stifle homeowners from maintaining and upgrading their homes; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of a new historic district could result in other negative consequences to homeowners, including increased difficulty in obtaining financing and insurance, or in selling the property; and

WHEREAS, creating a Baywood historical district will limit housing options and exacerbate the challenges faced by our most vulnerable and historically marginalized communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of San Mateo Board of Supervisors calls on the San Mateo Heritage Alliance to withdraw its application for a Baywood historic district; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of San Mateo Board of Supervisors opposes creation of a Baywood historic district and calls on the State Historical Resources Commission to reject the application for a historic district in Baywood submitted by the San Mateo Heritage Alliance.

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