

ORDINANCE

Rector Building 79 W. Monroe Street

WHEREAS, pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Municipal Code of Chicago (the "Municipal Code"), Sections 2-120-620 through -690, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the "Commission") has determined that the Rector Building, (the "Building"), located at 79 W. Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois, as more fully described in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto and incorporated herein, satisfies three criteria for landmark designation as set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1), and (4) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS; the Building was built in 1905 for Charles E. Rector, a renowned restaurateur who operated popular restaurants in Chicago, New York, and Washington DC in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and

WHEREAS; Rector's Restaurant opened to great fanfare in the basement of the Building in 1905, and Charles Rector continued to operate the restaurant until 1910, and

WHEREAS; Charles E. Rector was a pioneer in Chicago's early restaurant industry and became a nationally recognized restaurateur and entrepreneur during the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Rector's original oyster bar in downtown Chicago, which opened in 1884, was an immediate success, and Rector quickly gained a reputation as a master of service and seafood. This reputation was further cemented in 1893, when Rector opened the Café' de la Marine at the World's Columbian Exposition in Jackson Park, and

WHEREAS; by 1900, Charles Rector had opened a second oyster bar in Chicago on Adams Street and, partnered with his son, George W. Rector, to establish a branch of Rector's in New York City at Broadway and Forty-fourth Street. All three restaurants were wildly successful in the decades before prohibition, and were memorialized in popular culture through reference in songs, books, and plays, and

WHEREAS; Charles E. Rector's success in the restaurant business spurred him to expand into real estate development in both Chicago and New York City, allowing him to customize his high-end restaurants while earning income from the buildings' upper floor tenants, and

WHEREAS; the Building was also home to several financial institutions through much of the 20th century, including the Hibernian Bank, Chicago Trust Company, and the Bell Savings & Loan Association, and

WHEREAS; the Building was part of a concentrated group of buildings within a two-block area along West Monroe Street that contained nearly a dozen banks and trust companies and was part of a larger financial district that coalesced around La Salle Street in the early 20th century as the city's financial services industry grew, and

WHEREAS; the Bell Savings & Loan Association, founded in 1925 by 13 employees of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company, occupied the lower banking floors of the Rector Building

from 1951 to 1997. At the time of its purchase of the building, Bell Savings & Loan was the largest savings & loan association in Illinois, with over 30,000 members and \$60 million in assets

WHEREAS; the Building is the oldest surviving example of a commercial high-rise building in the Loop designed by Jarvis Hunt, a prominent Chicago architect who designed a variety of commercial, residential, and civic buildings throughout the country in the early 20th century, and

WHEREAS; Hunt also served as sole architect for the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Lake County, Illinois, which was constructed between 1905 and 1911, and

WHEREAS; the Building is one of the earliest of Hunt's designs to combine classical design details with 20th century modernist elements from the Chicago School and Prairie School, and marks the beginning of Hunt's development of an eclectic design philosophy that would later be expressed in his designs for the Auditorium Building at the Chicago Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium (1919) and the Southern Pacific Building in Houston (1911), and

WHEREAS; Hunt was actively involved in the City Beautiful Movement in Chicago in the early 20th century. Hunt proposed expanding Michigan Avenue into "a grand shore drive along Grant Park" to the South Park Commission in 1904, an idea that was later included in Daniel H. Burnham and Edward H. Bennett's 1909 Plan of Chicago, and

WHEREAS; the Building meets three criteria for landmark designation set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1), (3) and (5) of the Municipal Code, and

WHEREAS; consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Building has significant historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2025, the Commission adopted a resolution recommending to the City Council of the City of Chicago (the "City Council") that the Building be designated a Chicago Landmark; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are hereby adopted as the findings of the City Council.

SECTION 2. The Building is hereby designated a Chicago Landmark in accordance with Section 2-120-700 of the Municipal Code.

SECTION 3. For purposes of Sections 2-120-740 and 2-120-770 of the Municipal Code governing permit review, the significant historical and architectural features of the Building are identified as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the Building.

SECTION 4. The Commission is hereby directed to create a suitable plaque appropriately identifying the Building as a Chicago Landmark.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. All ordinances, resolutions, motions or orders in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and approval.