

ORDINANCE

New Genesis Assembly of God Baptist Church

1400 N. Laramie Avenue

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 New Genesis Assembly of God Baptist Church (the "Building"), located at 1400 N. Laramie Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, as more fully described in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein, satisfies two criteria for landmark designation as set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1) and (4) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, originally home to the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, which was established in 1870, the Building reflects the city's social history and specifically, its German American ethnic and immigrant history as well as German American residential migration throughout various Chicago neighborhoods over time; and,

WHEREAS, an important figure in the history of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was Reverend Carl H. Rembold who assumed the pastorate in 1923. Reverend Rembold would lead the church congregation to its new location on N. Laramie Avenue and oversaw the construction of the Building seen today over multiple decades, while substantially increasing the size of the congregation, its programming and its community impact; and,

WHEREAS, in 1997, the church Building would once again become a center of community life as the home of New Genesis Assembly of God Baptist Church. While serving an Austin community that underwent significant racial change, the new church congregation has anchored the corner for over 25 years; and,

WHEREAS, the Building is an excellent example of early 20th century church architecture in an eclectic Neo-Gothic style that was built in multiple phases between 1924 and 1949, as the Building's original congregation encountered delays in the building campaign due to the Great Depression and World II; and,

WHEREAS, the Building is clad with Lannon Stone on its primary elevations along with various Gothic elements such as lancet windows and multiple crenellated parapets giving it a commanding appearance; and,

WHEREAS, the Building's unique bell tower, which is four stories in height, includes the church's bells cast in 1898 and brought from the church's original location on Ada Street. It is topped by an unusual octagonal lantern framed by stepped gables at each of the tower's four sides; and

WHEREAS, the overall design detailing and detailed interior oak framing displays the Viennese training of the building's architect, Moritz Strauch; and,

WHEREAS, the Building meets two criteria for landmark designation set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1) and (4) 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 July 10, 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.