

ORDINANCE

Kingdom Baptist Church

301 N. Central 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 Kingdom Baptist Church Building (the "Building"), located at 301 N. Central Avenue, 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), (4) and (5) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Building, formerly The Fifteenth Church of Christ, Scientist, has served as a place of worship and remained a center for community in the Austin Community Area for nearly a century; and

WHEREAS, when Kingdom Baptist Church relocated to the Building in 1973, they opened it to greater Austin as a center of community, education, and culture by establishing several key programs. Here, the congregation's mission, teaching, and youth departments organized the Kingdom Day Care Center, Kingdom Chase House Day Care Center, Afterschool Program, Substance Abuse Ministry and hosted fashion shows, exercise classes, skating parties, and youth parties; and

WHEREAS, the Building highlights the evolution of architectural styles over the eighteen-year construction period. It is an architecturally significant and unique example of the hybrid use of two distinct and divergent styles: Neoclassical and Art Deco. At the exterior, the Building's architect, Nelson Max Dunning, united the two styles through Neoclassical detailing, which was stylized and applied to the forms of the modern Art Deco style. The interior is also reflective of this integration, as the basement, first floor lobby, and flanking staircases to the second-floor auditorium are derivative of Classicism, while the interior of the auditorium is overall restrained and streamlined, with a focus on the decorative arts, representative of the Art Deco style; and

WHEREAS, the design for the Building, limits the use of religious details and instead articulates Dunning's professional philosophy of functionalism expressed through design, and use of minimal ornamentation; and

WHEREAS, the architecture of the Building reflects The Church of Christ, Scientist's evolving philosophies related to architecture as the visible proclamation of the church within cities. Historically, the denomination utilized Classical architecture which reflected the denomination's belief in progressivism. By the 1920s, Christian Science congregations generally eschewed any overt ecclesiastical symbolism and incorporated secular and restrained ornamentation, which is showcased in the overall design of the Building; and

WHEREAS, Dunning was one of Chicago's most renowned architects for over thirty years. He was well-known for his specialization in the design of large-scale industrial, commercial, and educational buildings. His design for each building was always based on carefully studying his client's requirements and evolving architectural technology, utility, and aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, Dunning's works were inspired by the Chicago School of Architecture's philosophy of functionalism. He was one of the most significant promoters of the movement

through his work organizing exhibits, classes, and meetings showcasing progressive architecture. His work contributed to the movement's rise as one of the most influential forces in the field of architecture at the beginning of the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, outside of his private architectural practice, Dunning contributed to the national built landscape under President Franklin Roosevelt as an expert in public housing and supervisor of the design and construction of public buildings for the New Deal-era Public Works Administration; and

WHEREAS, Dunning is recognized as a founder of the Architectural League of America ("ALA") in 1899 and served as its first president. He disseminated progressive and modern designs throughout the country as part of the ALA. He was elected a member of the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects ("AIA") in 1915 and nominated as a Fellow of the AIA in 1919; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Building has a 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 November 7, 2024, 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.