

ORDINANCE

Byrne Hall

2219 N. Kenmore Ave.

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 Byrne Hall (the "Building"), located at 2219 N. Kenmore Ave., 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 has served as an educational center for the Lincoln Park community for over a century. It has fostered the St. Vincent de Paul congregation as its first dedicated educational building; and

WHEREAS, the design of the Building embodies the evolving trends in architecture at the turn of the twentieth century through precise, well-crafted architectural details. With the construction of Byrne Hall, J.E.O. Pridmore moved away from the stylistic precedents of the St. Vincent campus and adopted a modern approach, engaging with the more popular Italian Renaissance Revival style; and

WHEREAS, though modest in its design, the exterior of the Building illustrates the details of the Italian Renaissance Revival style, popular at the time of construction. The design adheres to the style's principles, including a symmetrical composition, and a humble, restrained use of Classical ornamentation applied to the monochromatic limestone exterior; and

WHEREAS, the design of the Building embodies the evolving trends in architecture at the turn of the twentieth century through precise, well-crafted architectural details. With the construction of Byrne Hall, architect J.E.O. Pridmore moved away from the stylistic precedents of the St. Vincent campus and adopted a modern approach, engaging with the more popular Italian Renaissance Revival style; and

WHEREAS, born in England and educated in Birmingham, John Edmund Oldaker (J.E.O) Pridmore was a Chicago architect, best known for his theater and residential designs, including Bush Temple of Music (108 W. Chicago Avenue, 1901, City of Chicago Landmark), The Preston Bradley Center of People's Church of Chicago (941 W. Lawrence Avenue, 1925, City of Chicago Landmark); Chapel of St. John the Divine (Champaign, IL, 1925); The Beaconsfield (Southeast corner of Winthrop and Hollywood avenues, c. 1910); the Stickney School (1054 W. Hollywood Avenue, 1903); and nearly two dozen theaters across the upper Midwest between 1904 and 1937; and

WHEREAS, Pridmore's career spanned 50 years and, in his time, was regarded as one of Chicago's most notable architects, specifically for the quality of his work and not for quantity. He was well known for an exceedingly technical and well-researched approach to every project. His designs are considered to be picturesque, and reflect a high level of finesse with blending historic architectural styles with the contemporary trends of his time; and

WHEREAS, after the Iroquois Fire disaster of December 1903, Pridmore became an outspoken and successful advocate for increased fire safety measures in the Chicago Building

Code. He publicly urged city officials and singled out Mayor Carter Harrison, Jr., demanding that all theaters in the city be closed until new building codes could be met. His efforts made him the face of innovation in fire safety in the city of Chicago. His work led him to become the president of the Iroquois Fire Memorial Fund. After the fire, he only designed “fireproof” buildings that utilized the latest advances in material design. In 1907, he was hired by St. Vincent’s College (later DePaul University) to design three fireproof buildings, including Byrne Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Building is the birthplace of DePaul University. It stands as a tangible example of the Vincentian Order’s educational efforts in Chicago. The Building rests on the site of the city’s first Vincentian building, converted to an educational facility in 1898. In 1907, the academic program expanded, and the first building was replaced with the extant Byrne Hall. Byrne Hall hosted DePaul High School for girls, DePaul Academy for boys, and St. Vincent’s College. In 1907, the college was rechartered as DePaul University, to honor St. Vincent De Paul. By 1924, DePaul University outgrew Byrne Hall and began expanding its physical campus. The building continued to serve as the DePaul Academy until ownership was transferred to the university in 1968; 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 April 2, 2026, 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:

- The exterior portions of the Building that are included in Property Index Number (PIN) 14-32-208-007-0000, generally the east and south elevations and their rooflines, and a portion of the west elevation and its roofline.

Portions of the Building that are part of Property Index Number (PIN) 14-32-208-009-0000 are specifically excluded from the significant historical and architectural features. These include the north elevation, and a portion of the west elevation and its roofline.

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.