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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: February 20, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Carissa Cyr, Administrative Assistant II

SUBJECT: Resolution designating the Church of the Mountains Campus, located at three separate historic buildings on two parcels including 10077/79 and 10075 Church Street, Truckee, CA 96161 (APN 019-111-006); and 10069 Church Street, Truckee, CA 96161 (APN 019-111-009) as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 24-01

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: On November 17, 2023, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to designate the Church of the Mountains Campus in Truckee as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 24-01. Specifically on September 25, 2023, Kathleen Zemaitis submitted an application to the NCHLC requesting the site of the Church of the Mountains Campus be considered and designated as a Nevada County Historical Landmark.

As outlined in the attached supporting documents, designating the Church of the Mountains Campus as a Nevada County Historical Landmark will commemorate Truckee's historic Church Street district. The Church of the Mountains is Truckee's oldest church, erected in 1869. While the Church has experienced a few fires, it remains in its original location. "Unique to the Church is its bell...that has been ringing in Truckee since 1890. Two buildings adjacent to the Church create its campus: the Elizabeth Danforth Cottage which honors the lifetime dedication of Miss Danforth to the Truckee community, and the Rev. Sipes Parsonage which has served as an active parsonage over the years."

There are multiple historically significant aspects of the properties of the proposed landmark, as outlined in the attached supporting documents, which include the Church bell that was cast in 1998 by the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore, MC, the oldest church bell company that has been operating continually since 1856. The Truckee Historical Preservation Advisory Committee has listed the Danforth Cottage as

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“Category A/Essential to Truckee’s history.” The current steeple, erected in 1985, is the only steeple visible in the Town of Truckee. Today the Church’s yard is landscaped with an heirloom cherry tree, and the Church has “served the community’s needs for public meeting space and as an architectural landmark during this century. This Church has set the tone for the Church Street neighborhood.”

As such, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission recommends the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Resolution designating the Church of the Mountains Campus as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 24-01.

Item Initiated: Carissa Cyr, Administrative Analyst II
Approved: Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board
Submittal Date: February 5, 2024