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PLANNING &amp; LAND USE MANAGEMENT

## MOTION

Despite ambitious and comprehensive efforts to identify significant historic resources across Los Angeles, the City's historic designation program does not yet equitably highlight the diversity and richness of the African American experience in the City. Only about 4% of the City's approximately 1,290 locally-designated landmarks (Historic-Cultural Monuments) currently reflect associations with African American history.

To help rectify these disparities, the Planning Department's Office of Historic Resources launched African American Historic Places, Los Angeles (AAHPLA), a multi-year partnership with the Getty Conservation Institute to identify, conserve, interpret and celebrate African American people, contributing to the City's heritage. In addition to prioritizing the designation of additional sites as City Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs), the project will expand the City's historic preservation framework for African American history, develop cultural preservation strategies with three historically African American neighborhoods, and enhance inclusion and representation within the historic preservation field.

The AAHPLA project has been guided by a 15-member advisory committee of local African American civic and cultural leaders, which has provided strategic direction and support to advance the project's work. To jump-start the historic designation of significant Los Angeles sites associated with African American heritage, the advisory committee conducted a comprehensive review of the City's 2018 SurveyLA African American History of Los Angeles Historic Context Statement to identify an initial five sites that should be prioritized for HCM designation. The AAHPLA project has begun community engagement activities to help prioritize an additional five sites for HCM designation, which would be initiated in 2024.

With the advisory committee's guidance, the African American Historic Places, Los Angeles project recommends that the following five sites be initiated for consideration by the Cultural Heritage Commission and City Council as potential HCMs:

**Tom and Ethel Bradley Residence**, 3807 Welland Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90008 (Council District 10): A modest single-family home in Leimert Park is the property most associated with the remarkable life and career of Tom Bradley (1917-1998), the first African American Mayor of Los Angeles. Bradley's 20 years in office (1973-1993) mark the longest tenure by any Mayor in the City's history. He and his wife Ethel, a significant community leader and political partner, lived in the house when he was elected to the City Council in 1963; they remained until 1977, when they moved into The Getty House (the Mayor's official residence).

**California Eagle Offices**, 4071-4075 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90011 (Council District 9): This commercial structure on the Central Avenue corridor was home to the *California Eagle*, the oldest African American newspaper in Los Angeles, and one of the most prominent African American publications in the West during the twentieth century. While the newspaper traces its origins to 1879, it is most associated with the pioneering publisher Charlotta Bass, who is believed to be the first African American woman to own and operate a newspaper in the United States; she published the *California Eagle* from 1912 until 1951. In 1952, Bass became the first African American woman nominated for Vice President, as a candidate of the Progressive Party.

**First African Methodist Episcopal Church**, 2270 S. Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018 (Council District 8):

Designed by celebrated Black architect Paul R. Williams, the church was constructed by 1968 to accommodate the growing number of members of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (First AME). When Williams passed away in 1980, his funeral was held in the church. First AME was founded in 1872 by Bridgett (Biddy) Mason, a former enslaved woman who sued for her freedom and later amassed considerable

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wealth through real estate. In recent decades, the church's current location has become a center of community activism, where pastors and congregants have advocated for political representation, economic development, and social justice.

**Jewel's Catch One**, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019 (Council District 10): Jewel's Catch One was established by Jewel Thais-Williams in 1972, and is considered one of the first Black-owned Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) dance clubs in the nation. Catch One played a vital role in the lives of LGBTQ persons of color, not just as a place to have fun, but also a place to develop social support. Thais-Williams regularly allowed local Black lesbian and gay community groups to use the space for meetings and events, and the space also hosted HIV and peer counseling services, discussion groups, and poetry readings.

**StylesVille Beauty & Barbershop**, 13161 Van Nuys Blvd, Pacoima, CA 91331 (Council District 7) Established in 1957, StylesVille is the oldest Black barbershop and beauty salon in the San Fernando Valley, and perhaps in all of Los Angeles. Opened by Freddie and Ollie Carter, the barbershop is currently operated by a third-generation family member, Greg Carter Faucett, who began cutting hair when he was 10 years old.

Section 22.171.10 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) provides that the City Council, the Cultural Heritage Commission, or the Director of Planning, may initiate consideration of a proposed site, building, or structure as an HCM. The Cultural Heritage Commission, after inspecting and investigating any such Council-initiated designation, shall approve or disapprove in whole or in part the proposed inclusion and submit a report upon such action to the Council. In addition, LAAC Section 22.171.12 provides that there shall be a temporary stay of demolition, substantial alteration, or removal of any such proposed location or structure pending designation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council initiate consideration of the following five properties: (1) *Tom and Ethel Bradley Residence*, located at 3807 Welland Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90008; (2) *California Eagle Of ices*, located at 4071-4075 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90011; (3) *First African Methodist Episcopal Church*, located at 2270 S. Harvard Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90018; (4) *StylesVille Beauty & Barbershop*, located at 13161 Van Nuys Blvd, Pacoima, CA 91331; and (5) *Jewel's Catch One*, located at 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, as City Historic-Cultural Monuments under the procedures of Section 22.171.10 of the Administrative Code, and instruct the Planning Department to prepare the Historic-Cultural Monument applications for review and consideration by the Cultural Heritage Commission.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the City Clerk to create subfiles, for tracking purposes, to the main Council file, for each of the abovementioned five properties,, such that the applicable time limitations under the procedures of Administrative Code Section 22.171.10, would only be triggered upon final Council adoption of each Historic-Cultural Monument application.

I FURTHER MOVE that, after reviewing the applications, the Cultural Heritage Commission submit its reports and recommendations to the Council regarding the inclusion of these properties in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

PRESENTED BY:   
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SECONDED BY:



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