

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 06/14/2024 07:11 AM

Council File No: 23-0953

Comments for Public Posting: The 5th Helena Drive Brentwood home of Marilyn Monroe is iconic and important culturally. Ms. Monroe shaped popular culture in the western hemisphere through not only her acting and singing performances but through her image-making and self-promotion. She reinvented celebrity but not for celebrity's sake, but rather, she used her iconic image entrepreneurially as a feminist standing her ground and asserting her identity and her place at the table. Monroe ambitiously and substantively nurtured her identity as a resilient woman while maintaining a kind and open warm heart even though tending to her own vulnerabilities. This home and property was chosen and purchased by her as a manifestation of her aspirations of self-expression and safety and identity, a place to nest and take root, a meaningful and representative place for repose; that she is such an iconic figure having chosen this modest home in a secluded cul-de-sac speaks of her desire for a very reasonable and safe retreat of beauty and peace--an oasis of her own. For those reasons alone, the property is historic and meaningfully important. That the home is also where she was found deceased after her life was tragically cut short unfortunately adds more lore to her extraordinary legacy. Demolishing or removing the house from its location would desecrate the sanctity of the sense of place she chose and the home she made. A house is not walls and a roof any more than a person is eyes nose and mouth. It is important to protect what remains of this important notable person's home in its present location. It should be protected from being commodified as simply square footage. Los Angeles owes a lot to Ms. Monroe, as does the company business which sustains Los Angeles. It is about time Los Angeles honors Monroe by preserving this vestige of her mortal existence. Thank you.