

## Communication from Public

**Name:** India Wallace

**Date Submitted:** 04/03/2025 12:28 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0179

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear PLUM Committee Members, I have lived in Los Angeles my entire life, almost 40 years, and have seen countless beautiful, historic buildings razed and replaced with generic, cheaply-made, multi-unit homes that disintegrate within a few short years. When I heard that yet another property has been slated for this sad demise, I was compelled to write to you and voice my support for preserving the William Mellenthin Birdhouse Apartments as a historic designation. I have had the privilege of visiting the Mellenthin homes on Buffalo Ave many times, and what has stuck out to me most is the neighborly design of the complex. The homes all open out to a central driveway, where the neighbors see each other and interact, creating an immediate sense of community. On every visit, the people living in these homes have waved and smiled as I drove up. Each unit has a little porch and a screen door, reminiscent of a bygone era when people sat and talked to their neighbors. In a large, multistory, generic apartment complex, this sense of community is non-existent. When my friend, a tenant, first showed me around, I was struck by the lovely hardwood floors and the simple but elegant paneling. There is real tile in the kitchen and bathrooms. The building feels solid, built to last with materials that were long ago replaced with cheaper, quicker alternatives in newer builds. These houses are a testament to, and example of, craftsmanship and building that has all but disappeared in the modern era. Properties like this are disappearing at an alarming rate, especially with the recent fires in Los Angeles, which destroyed so many historic and invaluable homes. Now more than ever, historic homes like this are in danger, either from natural disaster or opportunistic developers. Allowing someone who has no connection to the property, its history, or its tenants (some of whom have lived there for decades) to demolish these homes will continue to destroy the last few outposts of neighborly connection and community left in Los Angeles. Saving this property and its tenants will preserve something unique that made our city what it was: a collection of beautiful spaces with architecture that reflected the artistry and creativity of innovators like Mellenthin. I truly hope your Commission supports the CHC's recommendation to designate the property as a historic monument. It is worth preserving. Sincerely, India Wallace Resident of Pasadena, California