

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Celia "Laddie" Williams

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**Council File No:** 20-1173

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please make First Baptist Church of Venice historical. The church, the property, and the land are historic to the city of Venice and the African American community that built this community. The church was created by African Americans who could not find a place to worship in Venice Ca 9029 in the early 1900s. Arthur Reese donated the land 687 E Westminster Ave Venice CA 90291 to the Black families to build a sacred place of worship in Venice. The church was very important to the Black families it kept their spirits up it gave the families a place to come and pray, sing, baptize, eulogize and gather together to hear the words of the "Lord". The First Baptist Church should be kept to keep the memories of what our American history is in the city of Venice 90291. First Baptist Church in the state is now is still shining bright in the community, the church in the past was a ray of light in the Oakwood community, it gave the people of Venice a place to come and pray, worship, hear the gospel songs that lifted our community up. When the doors of the church were opened you could hear the preaching and singing, throughout the community of Oakwood. Lives were saved and words of hope and faith were sent out into the community and it assisted so many in the community to believe, live, and hope. Black churches were the beacon of hope throughout the years and still every Sunday for three years we have had church and prayer on the steps of the church bringing many peace, faith, and hope during these trying times today (Unemployment, covid-19, evictions, feeding those who don't have food, houselessness). Yes, the history of First Baptist Church lives on today and we need your assistance to make this a historical site so we can believe in our Black History all 111 years, and the fact that Los Angeles City Council loves our community of "Oakwood." Praying for our E.L Holmes Square, First Baptist Church of Venice Appreciated Celia "Laddie" Williams