

Communication from Public

Name: Mariana Herrera

Date Submitted: 10/29/2020 10:59 AM

Council File No: 20-1173

Comments for Public Posting: Relative to the consideration of the First Baptist Church as Historic-Cultural Monument. Please reconsider saving the church , it means saving 100+ years of black history and continue to help build community. As a resident of Venice, community is extremely important. Community is not only about big businesses, corporations and money. Community is about people! Please don't stop listening to the minorities that help build Venice and make it the diverse and vibrant place it is today. I ask the City council to listen to and protect thousands of residents of Venice and not a single white wealthy man who doesn't need your protection.

Communication from Public

Name: Suzi Hoffman-Kipp

Date Submitted: 10/29/2020 12:26 PM

Council File No: 20-1173

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of Councilmember Bonin's motion to reconsider the application for the First Baptist Church of Venice to go back to the Historic Commission for consideration. I lived in Venice for years. Given the Church's vital role in Black life in Venice both now and historically, I urge the city to recognize the central role that the Church has held in Oakwood. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Margaret Molloy

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 12:26 PM

Council File No: 20-1173

Comments for Public Posting: It is time to designate the historic First Baptist Church of Venice as a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument. Venice is home to the only intentional Black coastal enclave on the west coast of the United States. Black families who arrived in 1900 built Venice and envisioned and created much of its cultural and economic success. Members of those families continue to live here generations later. The Venice Neighborhood Council and the Venice Chamber of Commerce ignore the important history and legacy of the Black community. Survey LA Venice published in 2015 and Survey LA African American Context published in 2018 failed to recognize, uplift, and protect this important history and legacy. This needs to end. Designation First Baptist Church of Venice as a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument is an important step in the right direction. Its history is central to the Black community in Venice. Please support this important designation. Appreciatively, Margaret Molloy

Communication from Public

Name: Crystal Griffin

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 03:39 PM

Council File No: 20-1173

Comments for Public Posting: As Venice is gentrified, her past is being lost. This was once the only beach in Los Angeles accessible to black families who helped to build the city. The community is unique to black culture. It's church should be preserved.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Didvar-Saadi

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 04:17 PM

Council File No: 20-1173

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, I am writing to voice my strong support of designating the First Baptist Church of Venice a LA Historic Cultural Landmark rather than allow a large residential project to replace this building. I believe the case numbers for this project are: Case N0# DIR-2017-1895-CDP-MEL CEQA No# ENV-2017-1896-CE I have lived in this neighborhood since 1998 and know it's important to preserve this significant community gathering space with so much history--particularly for the African-American residents--as part of the urban fabric of Venice. I serve as the architect for the Gregory Ain Marvista HPOZ which is just a few blocks away from the church location on Walgrove. It is critical to preserve iconic architecture of Venice such as this landmark so our city's history is not lost. I urge you to bring my letter to the attention of the Historic Commission for reconsideration. Sincerely, Sarah Didvar-Saadi

Communication from Public

Name: Donna Malamud

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 06:53 PM

Council File No: 20-1173

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of designating the First Baptist Church of Venice a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument. The building has played a key role in maintaining, and more recently in focusing, the long over 100 year history of the Black community in Venice. It is across from Oakwood Park in the heart of what has been Venice's Black neighborhood and is a classic example of late mid-century architecture. Over these many years the First Baptist Church of Venice has also played key roles in the community, as some committed churches do, providing a site for spiritual gathering and community building, social justice activism, community health and social service work, community-serving non-profits, housing for people in need, community events, and more. . It's time to designate the First Baptist Church of Venice a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument.

Communication from Public

Name: Ella Tabasky

Date Submitted: 10/29/2020 05:09 PM

Council File No: 20-1173

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of designating the First Baptist Church of Venice a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument. The building has played a key role in maintaining, and more recently bringing back into focus, the 111-year history of the Black community in Venice. It sits like a beacon across from Oakwood Park in the heart of what has been Venice's Black neighborhood and is a classic example of late mid-century architecture. First Baptist Church of Venice has also played key roles in the community, as some vibrant and committed churches do, providing a site for spiritual gathering and community building, social justice activism, community health and social service work, community-serving non-profits, housing for people in need, community events, and more. For too long, the city has overlooked the dynamic history of Black Venice and the instrumental role this church has played in that history. It's time to remedy that oversight and designate the First Baptist Church of Venice a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument.