

Communication from Public

Name: Carmen Fanali

Date Submitted: 10/27/2020 06:57 PM

Council File No: 20-1173

Comments for Public Posting: The First Baptist Church is historic. Being in the Oakwood Community of Venice for more than a century. It was a pillar and gathering place for the community. A community which is being ravaged by gentrification. The historic designation is well overdue and well deserved. We will not give up on this church or our community.

Communication from Public

Name: SK

Date Submitted: 10/27/2020 08:55 PM

Council File No: 20-1173

Comments for Public Posting: Please distribute the attached letter to the PLUM members and enter it into the public record.

28 October 2020

Re: First Baptist Church of Venice, 685 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291
Council File 20-1173

Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I support the Motion to send the application for Historic Cultural Monument status for the 1st Baptist Church in Venice to the Cultural Historic Commission.

Religious life has always been central to the African American culture and it was no different in Venice. Church was a lifeline, supporting the community and offering help to those in need and for celebration and life events. It was also a social venue for bringing people together.

Once there were four active black churches in Venice. We don't know the fate of them except we can see the Baptist Church standing proudly as a monument to this very community, the African American people of Oakwood.

The present community wants to see this church be recognized for the contributions made by the congregants over its history, as it moved from building to better building. The present site is a testament to the vitality and resourcefulness of the people as they grew and became a focal point to the Civil Rights movement in Venice. They want to see it serving as a community center, much like it was when this building was first consecrated.

Moving this forward to the Commission, without needing the first hearing of consideration will give the community a chance to place this church front and center once again in this vibrant and proud community of Venice.

It is my hope that the current owners will understand this and work with the community and allow this to happen.

Please adopt the motion and send the application for HCM consideration to the Commission to consider it again.

Thank you,
Sue Kaplan
763 Nowita Place
Venice, CA 90291

