

Communication from Public

Name: Miki Jackson
Date Submitted: 09/12/2021 11:37 PM
Council File No: 20-1173
Comments for Public Posting: Miki Jackson for AHF/HHR. We support the motion to make the Baptist Church of Venice a Monument.

Communication from Public

Name: Sue Kaplan

Date Submitted: 09/13/2021 08:48 PM

Council File No: 20-1173

Comments for Public Posting: Please distribute to the Committee Members and enter it into the public record. Thank you, Sue Kaplan

Sue Abbe Kaplan

763 Nowita Place

Venice, CA 90291

14 June 2021

Re: First Baptist Church of Venice, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE, 685 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

Dear Members of PLUM,

The Baptist Church of Venice is before you tomorrow. I urge you to recommend to the City Council to designate it as a Historic Cultural Monument.

Venice is a community rich in history and no neighborhood has a more significant history in Venice than Oakwood. You have heard about the Oakwood neighborhood, one of the first intentional African American communities in Los Angeles. Though the neighbors in the community, many of them of multi-generational families, are working hard and fast to discover the riches of their history, Oakwood is still in danger of losing the physical embodiments of their history.

The Church is just one of these physical entities that the Applicants are trying to save.

Religious life in Venice the early 20th century was vibrant, with many churches, even a Mexican Baptist Church. A few synagogues also served the Jewish community. One is still active and is a designated historical monument. The 1st Baptist Church was the leader of them all.

Oakwood is fast losing its cultural and historical legacy. It is a history that should not disappear. As I have been learning about the history of Venice, I have come to appreciate these families and the people, these structures represent the people and the struggles they overcame to bring about a community serving their people.

I urge you to recommend this important and still vibrant piece of Los Angeles and Venice history to be part of the City's growing list of such monuments.

It is important to save this building, as the physical embodiment for what it represents and what it means to for the people who it has served over all these years.

"... People always want to know, 'Who lived there? What was it used for? What were their jobs?' Seeing the place makes you want to know about the people." - National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation, 2019 Summer issue, p. 72.

I want to know about my community and the people who made it a community. Please make the recommendation to the City Council.

Sincerely,
Sue Kaplan