

Communication from Public

Name: Casey Maddren
Date Submitted: 12/04/2021 09:02 AM
Council File No: 21-0119
Comments for Public Posting: I would like to submit the attached letter in support of designating the entire structure that comprises Taix Restaurant as a Historic Cultural Monument.

December 4, 2021

Planning & Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Taix Restaurant HCM Designation, Council File 21-0119
SUPPORT

Members of the PLUM Committee,

I am writing to you in support of designating Taix Restaurant as a Historic Cultural Monument. Earlier this year, the Cultural Heritage Commission found that Taix should be declared an HCM based on the restaurant's significant contributions to the cultural, economic and social history of this community. The nomination has also received broad support within the community.

I am strongly opposed to Mitch O'Farrell's "amendment" which makes a travesty of the HCM nomination process. Pretending to preserve LA's history by conferring historic status on fragments of a building sets a dangerous precedent. O'Farrell's "amendment" was clearly a dishonest ploy to help the developers avoid necessary environmental review. It should be roundly rejected.

I urge the PLUM Committee to follow the recommendation of the CHC and designate the entire structure that comprises Taix Restaurant as a Historic Cultural Monument.

Sincerely,
Casey Maddren
2141 Cahuenga Blvd., Apt. 17
Los Angeles, CA 90068

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew Sears

Date Submitted: 12/04/2021 07:34 PM

Council File No: 21-0119

Comments for Public Posting: Please include this letter in the record for Council File 21-0119 Andrew Sears 2308 Duane Street Los Angeles, CA 90039 Re: Council File 21-0119 To whom this may concern, I am extremely dismayed at the way the city monument ordinance is being manipulated on behalf of the prospective developers of the Taix Restaurant property. The restaurant has been designated a monument for various reasons, and yet the council-member's office has cherry picking items on their behalf that don't actually preserve the monument, and arguably violate the designation. The recommended manipulations would completely and irreversibly disgorge the true heart of the monument itself. For decades, our community has benefited from the unique character of the Taix building. This includes the culture of continental dining that came to Los Angeles after WWII. Taix is a rare example of a restaurant that has maintained a commitment to this style of dining. I understand that there will be challenges to keeping the restaurant open, but there are other uses for such a space while still being able to protect it as a city historical monument. The building itself is a rare remaining vestige of the diversity of styles that once graced the streets of Los Angeles. These kitschy structures have been celebrated in books, and their destruction has been lamented over and over again. I read that the some on the committee berated the structure as nothing but kitsch, like Disneyland; and that the building itself is fake construction. I find this comment goes against the past precedents of the committee. The vast majority of this city is a fake facade that recreates culture from all over the world, yet many of those buildings have been designated as monuments. Monument 949, Bank of America Building in Echo Park is no more authentic in its construction materials than the Taix building, and yet it has qualified for protection. The designation document uses language including "decorative" and "ornamentation", and also that the building itself is just painted concrete. It is not actual stone. Why would one fake building material be considered any more or less valid than another? Like the Bank of America facade, the Taix facade is a gem along the charm bracelet that is Sunset Blvd, and there are very few left. The council-member's office exists to serve the community. The act of finding loopholes (saving only a few elements of the monument) to help outside developers destroy a local landmark

makes me question who's interest they are serving. In that light, it would be faulty of the commission to consider any recommendations from that office.

Please include this letter in the record for Council File 21-0119

Andrew Sears
2308 Duane Street
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Re: Council File 21-0119

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Communication from Public

Name: Heather Parish persons

Date Submitted: 12/05/2021 09:24 AM

Council File No: 21-0119

Comments for Public Posting: Please include this letter in the record for council file 21-0119.

Dear Plum Committee, I have lived in Silverlake and Los Feliz for almost 30 years. I moved here in my twenties, started my career, met my husband, bought a house and raised a family. Over the years, much has changed in our neighborhoods, most of it good but some of it terrible. I am writing because I consider Echo Park to be my neighborhood. I spend a lot of time there, shopping, going to doctor's appointments, restaurants, bars, Dodger Stadium, etc. I've learned that Taix Restaurant is in danger of being destroyed and want to tell you that I hope that does not come to pass. Taix has been an important meeting place for my friends and family over these many years. We get together there for romantic dinners, birthdays, and wakes. It's part of the fabric of our lives and has been for many other Los Angelenos over the decades it has been here. Please don't destroy it. I fear we will lose our unique character, what makes us a special place. We don't want to become like everywhere else. People want to move here from all over the country because of our one-of-a-kind mix. Let's not tear it down for a new, bland building that could be found anywhere. It won't serve us in the long run. Here is what I've learned from some long-time friends in the community: On January 26, 2021 the CHC unanimously voted to designate the TAIX building under criteria 1, which recognized the restaurant's significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic and social history of this community. Yet against the Cultural Heritage Commissioners' recommendation and findings, Mitch O'Farrell has proposed a dangerous and far-reaching "amendment" which aims to designate three salvage items (a wooden bar top and two exterior signs) from the existing building as a Historic Cultural Monument, claiming he is preserving a historic resource. This unprecedented and outrageous "amendment" requests that this Committee eviscerate our HCM nomination and destroy the very resource it seeks to preserve. This subversive concept manipulates the Cultural Heritage Ordinance in a way that claims the historic resource is being preserved, when in fact this "amendment" will demolish Taix. This is clearly deviant from the intent of the law, reducing the designation to the salvaging of remnants in a recycling yard. If approved, Mitch's "amendment" sets a destructive new standard;

it will send a message to developers that they can expect our City Council to expedite their project, avoid environmental review and more easily gain approval to demolish our historic resources.

Mitch's "amendment" weakens the law which governs the conservation of our City's historic resources; it is an attack against every preservation effort in the City of LA. Additionally, Holland Partner Group, LLC has made substantial contributions to Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, and has worked with him on their plans to develop the Taix site with a 6-story mixed use project that spans every available inch of land. By claiming to "save" Taix, Mitch O'Farrell's "amendment" is intentionally and specifically designed to allow developers Holland Partner Group, LLC, to avoid the environmental review required by CEQA when destroying a historic resource and upzoning the land. Mitch O'Farrell's interpretation of "historic preservation" is in major conflict with the secretary of the interiors standards for rehabilitation. These standards include retaining and preserving a property's character defining features. **THE REMOVAL OF HISTORIC MATERIALS SHALL BE AVOIDED.** Changes that create a false sense of historical development, shall not be undertaken. O'Farrell's "amendment" calls for three salvaged items to be nominated as the "monument", in lieu of the historic building which was originally recommended for designation by the CHC. Mitch's "amendment" ignores these standards altogether. Through creative design and compromise, there is a way to preserve Taix and still develop the property. Viable and vibrant options have been presented to the developers, who have experience with adaptive reuse and were receptive to these ideas. Mitch O'Farrell's "amendment" gives them the easy way out, but with cooperation and a few open minds, it's highly feasible that the Taix building can be incorporated through meaningful preservation and continued use, where the old and new work together in a thoughtful, compatible design that can be celebrated by all. For the future and legacy of our neighborhood, I hope you will help make that happen. Sincerely, Heather Persons

Communication from Public

Name: Kim Cooper & Richard Schave

Date Submitted: 12/05/2021 10:53 AM

Council File No: 21-0119

Comments for Public Posting: Please include this letter in the record for Council File 21-0119
Dear Councilmembers, As tour guides who have guided thousands of Angelenos and visitors through Echo Park to see sites like Taix, and as the authors of the guidebook "How To Find Old Los Angeles," we ask that you support the Taix HCM as passed by the Cultural Heritage Commission, without the amendments subsequently submitted by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell. If you are unwilling to do this, you must reject this landmark nomination outright, in order to maintain the integrity of the Historic Cultural Monument ordinance. (Under the amendments, the "landmark" would be demolished with three insignificant decorative elements salvaged for inclusion in or on a new building.) There is plenty of room on this parcel to both preserve Taix' building and build up with new construction, allowing the community to keep a popular cultural landmark and legacy business that has served generations of Angelenos, and the developer who bought the land to profit. This exact redevelopment model is presently being followed with Los Angeles legacy business Dinah's on Sepulveda--the Googie-style restaurant is to be preserved with its large parking lot developed with taller construction containing 326 new apartments. Listen to the locals who support the landmark designation for Taix and do the right thing at Tuesday's hearing. Save Taix! sincerely yours,
Kim Cooper & Richard Schave Esotouric Los Angeles 90032

Communication from Public

Name: Debbie Spinelli

Date Submitted: 12/05/2021 12:00 PM

Council File No: 21-0119

Comments for Public Posting: To Whom it May Concern: The Cultural Heritage Commission unanimously voted to designate Taix French Restaurant/building a Historic Cultural Monument. They did so because of the restaurant's six decades of significant contributions to the "broad cultural, economic and social history of this community." (Criteria 1) Thousands of locals signed a petition in favor of protecting this rare and iconic example of a Continental Dining Establishment. Mitch O'Farrell has presented an "amendment" which aims to subvert the CHC's nomination by destroying the very protection this process ensures. His plan to save pieces of Taix is absurd and dangerous. There is no ordinance or criteria to establish a "Legacy Business" in Los Angeles, O'Farrell is wrong. If approved, this demolition will set a dangerous precedent that weakens the laws which govern the conservation of our City's historic resources. Mitch O'Farrell's amendment is in conflict with the Los Angeles City Cultural Heritage Ordinance Sec. 22.171.10 (f) Procedures For Designation of Monuments. The amendment is in conflict with the National guidelines for Historic Preservation as well: "removal of historic materials shall be avoided." Please join your constituents and the community at large in support of the preservation of TAIX FRENCH RESTAURANT. Thank you sincerely, Debbie Spinelli

Communication from Public

Name: Debbie Slater

Date Submitted: 12/06/2021 10:52 AM

Council File No: 21-0119

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, I am horrified by how the Historic Nomination Process for Taix Restaurant has been handled. This is an IMPORTANT part of not only Echo Park history but Los Angeles history. I implore you to overturn Mr. O'Farrell's "Amendment" to the Cultural Heritage Committee's recommendation and return to their ruling. PRESERVE THIS LANDMARK! Sincerely, Debbie Slater dslater42@msn.com

Communication from Public

Name: Keith Nakata

Date Submitted: 12/06/2021 01:05 PM

Council File No: 21-0119

Comments for Public Posting: PLUM Committee Members, Please support the designation of Taix French Restaurant at 1911-1929 W. Sunset Blvd. and 1910-2018 W. Reservoir St., as I do, as a Historical Cultural Monument as recommended by the Cultural Heritage Commission o December 17, 2020. The Cultural Heritage Commission made the findings that Taix French Restaurant "exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community" as the log-time location of Taix French Restaurant. Additionally, the CHC found that Taix French Restaurant "embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction" as an excellent and highly intact example of a continental-themed restaurant. Both the Cultural Heritage Commission and the Office of Historic Resources are the most qualified people to determine the appropriate findings and recommendations for Historic Cultural Monuments and to remove the political and property owners undue influence on the appropriate designations for future residents of Los Angeles. The proposed amendment submitted by Councilmember O'Farrell, Council District 11, conflicts with the substance and spirit of the findings made in the original CHC Final Determination, and also conflicts with their statement that states "It is for this reason that Taix should be designated" which CD11 supports. This is why Councilmembers are not qualified to make these types of major changes to CHC recommendations.

Communication from Public

Name: Alexis Scott

Date Submitted: 12/06/2021 02:09 PM

Council File No: 21-0119

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, The people came together in Echo Park to save our Beloved Taix Restaurant. Now Mitch O'Farrell is trying to go against the people's wishes. We have already won. The fight is over. The developers must find a way to build around the original Taix restaurant. It has been given historical landmark status by the board. We have no other restaurants like Taix left in the neighborhood. Don't let Mitch O'Farrell illegally go around the voters who have worked tirelessly to save Taix. Remember this is a democracy. Thank you, Alexis Scott Silverlake / Echo Park resident since 1990

Communication from Public

Name: C.C. de Vere

Date Submitted: 12/06/2021 08:39 PM

Council File No: 21-0119

Comments for Public Posting: Please include this letter in the record for Council File 21-0119. Dear Councilmembers, I have been researching and mapping Los Angeles' forgotten French colony since 2013, and my family has been watching old Los Angeles slowly disappear since 1928. I ask that you support Taix French Restaurant's original HCM nomination as passed by the Cultural Heritage Commission. The alterations added by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell would effectively cannibalize the HCM ordinance by allowing three scraps of salvage - two signs and a bar top - to be incorporated into a new development. Would you tear down the Chinese Theatre and only keep the signs and forecourt? Absolutely not. Would you tear down the Avila Adobe and only keep the porch? No way. Would you tear down Central Library and only save the sphinxes and globe chandelier? You wouldn't. The HCM ordinance must maintain its integrity in order to protect the surviving places that make Los Angeles what it is, even if it means rejecting this particular nomination in its entirety. After 8.5 years of digging through old maps, city directories, census records, and everything else I can get my hands on, I can tell you that Taix is Los Angeles' last surviving link to its obliterated French neighborhood. Taix and its French Alpine building are an important tie to the past in a city that was formerly between 10 and 20 percent French or French-speaking. It's not "just a building". It's part of our rich cultural heritage as Angelenos. The two parcels comprising Taix and its overflow parking lot are large enough to develop while still keeping, or even integrating, the existing building, and with Los Angeles' numerous environmental concerns, adaptive reuse should be considered first. Construction and demolition account for MORE THAN TWICE the amount of municipal waste created each year - and of that, demolition accounts for 90 percent. Consider the apartments being built around, not in place of, Dinah's in Westchester. Better yet, consider the Luxe @ Broadway development in Santa Monica - 97 affordable units built 9 years ago. The developer had planned to remove a World War II-era quonset hut on the site, but chose to keep it instead. The hut has housed Pono Burger since 2013. Over 150,000 quonset huts were made, and many still remain - but there is only one Taix. Los Angeles does not belong to developers. It belongs to Angelenos. Angelenos have loved Taix

since 1927, and have loved its Sunset Boulevard location since 1962. I must ask you all to do the right thing and save Taix for the Angelenos of the past, present, and future. Cordialement (cordially), C.C. de Vere (4th generation Angeleno and history blogger)