

Communication from Public

Name: LINCOLN HEIGHTS INTEL

Date Submitted: 01/21/2022 06:09 PM

Council File No: 22-0050

Comments for Public Posting: 1/21/22 Los Angeles City Council 200 North Spring Street City Hall - Room 395 Los Angeles, CA 90012 From the desk of: Lincoln Heights Intel RE: CF:22-0050 Bailey Street / 1st Street / Pennsylvania Avenue / Vicente Fernandez Street / Street Name Change Position: Oppose There is a history of tyrants, dictators and elected officials regulating historical interpretations through law. Elected officials in a democracy are tools created by the people. It is dangerous for Kevin de Leon to bypass the community of Boyle Heights in the renaming of a street in a neighborhood in which he has no ties. Boyle heights is part of the original Pueblo along with Lincoln Heights; we are brother and sister. We have seen first hand the cultural hijacking done by City Hall since the invasion by the United States in 1847. It sets precedent in a city like Los Angeles that has a legacy of sidestepping due process. Acts like this erode democracy. This is one of the reasons that CD14 has the lowest votership rate in the city. After a long chain of abuses, in democracies rife with corruption and bribery, people become apathetic and it only gets worse. Acts like renaming streets without permission perpetuates the abuses in which this City was founded on. The looting, seizure and co-opting of cultural assets is a war tactic. Even though it's called Bailey St, that street is part of the collective memory of Boyle Heights. The renaming of streets is a process that takes time and must be initiated by communities themselves. Lincoln Heights has streets named after the confederates who privatized the Zanja and enslaved the indigenous to dig the ditches to create our neighborhoods- they were also the founders of the City of LA, but it is the People who get to decide whether to change these names or not. When we come up with a general consensus, then we notify those in power, not the other way around. The renaming of Bailey St. to Vicente Hernandez St. by the city glorifies a homophobic macho who never actually did anything for the People of Boyle Heights, considering his wealth and power. The general consensus is: yes the community appreciates his music but they never chose to rename the street in the first place. By accommodating the desires of Mariachi Plaza (run by a nonprofit), the city is placing the needs of a corporation over those of the people. The seizure of cultural assets in Boyle Heights is equivalent of the rewriting of history the city has done at El

Pueblo. It is not even the real site of the original Pueblo. It is a later version, geographically ghettoized by freeways, that the city turned into a museum to absolve itself of all of the racist crimes against humanity they have committed against the Indigenous, Mexican, Chinese, and Black angelenos who built this city. If they were not lynched, they were eradicated with urban renewal projects. Tourist attractions created and curated by the city to tell the story of the people without their permission is exploitative, irresponsible and an abuse of power. Boyle Heights is a living community; not a carcass to be looted and appropriated by city officials. Do not trivialize the demands of the People. Engraved on the side of City Hall: "A people cannot have the consciousness of being self-governed unless they attend themselves to the things over against their own doors. The real imperialism, the real oppression, the real political slavery, is the intrusion of power from without into a local condition. If we are to have self-government in the large, we must first have it in the small. Government must be distributed among localities according to local interests. The conditions that reign at a distance, the desires of men who live at a distance, must not determine the life of any community. If we are to keep our local institutions pure, a second condition must be that every individual citizen does his part; voting and other political actions must be conceived as a duty, not merely as a privilege. If we leave the management of our affairs to men who want to get office or emolument for themselves or their friends, or to men who have set themselves apart to the special work of running politics, then have we accepted an oligarchy--we are no longer a democracy. When no one is willing to do anything for the city except those who expect to get out of the city something that they perhaps do not deserve, then is the city in genuine trouble and well on the way to destruction." - Ida Benjamin Wheeler "The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."- Ralph M. Brown. Thank you for your time LINCOLN HEIGHTS INTEL

1/21/22

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
City Hall - Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

From the desk of: Lincoln Heights Intel

RE: CF:22-0050 BAILEY STREET / 1ST STREET / PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE /
VICENTE FERNANDEZ STREET / STREET NAME CHANGE

Position: Oppose

There is a history of tyrants, dictators and elected officials regulating historical interpretations through law. Elected officials in a democracy are tools created by the people. It is dangerous for Kevin de Leon to bypass the community of Boyle Heights in the renaming of a street in a neighborhood in which he has no ties. Boyle heights is part of the original Pueblo along with Lincoln Heights; we are brother and sister. We have seen first hand the cultural hijacking done by City Hall since the invasion by the United States in 1847. It sets precedent in a city like Los Angeles that has a legacy of sidestepping due process. Acts like this erode democracy. This is one of the reasons that CD14 has the lowest votership rate in the city. After a long chain of abuses, in democracies rife with corruption and bribery, people become apathetic and it only gets worse. Acts like renaming streets without permission perpetuates the abuses in which this City was founded on. The looting, seizure and co-opting of cultural assets is a war tactic. Even though it's called Bailey St, that street is part of the collective memory of Boyle Heights.

The renaming of streets is a process that takes time and must be initiated by communities themselves. Lincoln Heights has streets named after the confederates who privatized the Zanja and enslaved the indigenous to dig the ditches to create our neighborhoods- they were also the founders of the City of LA, but it is the People who get to decide whether to change these names or not. When we come up with a general consensus, then we notify those in power, not the other way around.

The renaming of Bailey St. to Vicente Hernandez St. by the city glorifies a homophobic macho who never actually did anything for the People of Boyle Heights, considering his wealth and power. The general consensus is: yes the community appreciates his music but they never chose to rename the street in the first place. By accommodating the desires of Mariachi Plaza (run by a nonprofit), the city is

placing the needs of a corporation over those of the people. The seizure of cultural assets in Boyle Heights is equivalent of the rewriting of history the city has done at El Pueblo. It is not even the real site of the original Pueblo. It is a later version, geographically ghettoized by freeways, that the city turned into a museum to absolve itself of all of the racist crimes against humanity they have committed against the Indigenous, Mexican, Chinese, and Black angelenos who built this city. If they were not lynched, they were eradicated with urban renewal projects. Tourist attractions created and curated by the city to tell the story of the people without their permission is exploitative, irresponsible and an abuse of power. Boyle Heights is a living community; not a carcass to be looted and appropriated by city officials. Do not trivialize the demands of the People.

Engraved on the side of City Hall:

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"The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created." - Ralph M. Brown.

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