

Communication from Public

Name: Boyle Heights Community Partners
Date Submitted: 01/25/2022 09:54 AM
Council File No: 21-1442
Comments for Public Posting: As active stakeholders, historians, born raised to Boyle Heights, we can only hope that our voices are being heard by those of you that present us.

BOYLE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Unity with Strength for History, Community and Historic Preservation

603 North Breed Street
Los Angeles, California 90033

BHCP

25 January 2022

Councill File Number: 21-1442

Title: Pennsylvania Avenue / Boyle Avenue / Robert Vargas Square Artist - Angeleno / Permanent Ceremonial Signs

To the Los Angeles City Council

I am writing as a native to Boyle Heights, Historian, and stakeholder, and very concerned, in the direction of naming a square after someone that has less then 20 years participating in the arts representing Boyle Heights and is not an iconic figure in our community.

This "Robert Vargas Square" which was proposed by CD 14 Councilmember Kevin de León without a concern for community input or participate from our Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council or any other notices.

This proposed motion to name a public square is the second motion that has been presented without any consideration for public comment from our community, just as the motion to rename a portion of Bailey Street, in Boyle Heights after a popular and dishonorable entertainer Vicente Fernandez (CF-220050), without any respect for concerned stakeholders, and we feel that these ongoing motions renaming of our streets, or naming square policies that are being abused.

As invested, loyal stakeholders to our cultural heritage and history have continued to learn of these motions not from our representative, but from social media and newspaper articles as we have been shamefully silenced on these ongoing decisions that we are not allowed to participate in, and as these motions continue to be submitted to our Los Angeles City Council without significant merit.

We have also learned that this said artist Robert Vargas who has not had any tangible connections with Boyle Heights other than being born and raised here, yet has not earned the right to receive a square name after him, and shamefully, these square should represent those that have made a positive and significance impact to our community such as Henry Workman, Andrew Boyle, who Boyle Heights is named after, Hadda Brooks, an African American Jazz and Blues singer, or even Mary "Mamie" Perry, born, raised in Boyle Heights and who actually brought Opera to our City of Angeles.

We also feel that artist Robert Vargas would better be suited for a square named after him in Downtown Los Angeles, since that is where he is better known for his art.

We hope that our concerns and voices are recognized as we opposed the naming of any square in Boyle Heights after Robert Vargas, or any other name if they have not helped to mold the dynamic footprint of our beloved and historic treasured community of Boyle Heights.

Sincerely,



Vivian M. Escalante,
President & CFO Boyle Heights Community Partners

www.BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com

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