

MOTION

Otemo Sushi Café - Otomisan Japanese Restaurant

Otomisan Japanese Restaurant is a one-story commercial building at 2506 1/2 East First Street between South Mathews Street and South Fickett Street in the Boyle Heights Community. In 1925, then owner Ryohei Nishiyama reconstructed the residence at the rear of the lot and built the vernacular- style commercial building facing East First Street.

Originally a Japanese grocery store, the commercial building was converted to a food establishment in the 1950s, and in 1956, Otemo Sushi Café, now called Otomisan Japanese Restaurant, opened in the easternmost storefront of the building. Still operating today, Otomisan Japanese Restaurant is the last remaining Japanese restaurant in the neighborhood and believed to be one of the oldest continuously operating Japanese restaurants in the city of Los Angeles.

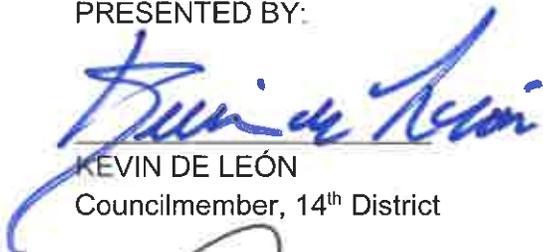
The buildings and signage at 2504-2508 East First Street represent multiple layers of historical and cultural significance, including early residential development in Boyle Heights, streetcar development, and Japanese American commercial development in Boyle Heights.

This property narrates the story of Japanese American entrepreneurship before and after World War II in Boyle Heights.

On December of 2021, the City of Los Angeles, included Nishiyama Residence - Otomisan Japanese Restaurant site as a Historic-Cultural Monument (#1250)

I THEREFORE MOVE that in recognition of the historical significance and entrepreneurial spirit of Issei (first generation) pioneer Ryohei Nishiyama who created an economic mobility for Japanese and Japanese Americans in Los Angeles during a time when their opportunities were restricted due to land ownership, housing, and job discrimination; that the City Council authorizes the Department of Transportation to fabricate a Historical Monument sign stating: "Otemo Sushi Café - Otomisan Japanese Restaurant est. 2506 1/2 East First Street in Boyle Heights The oldest continuously operating Japanese Restaurant in Boyle Heights and the City of Los Angeles." and instruct the Department of Transportation to install the double-sided sign on the streetlight pole located in front of the current property at 2506 1/2 East First Street in Boyle Heights.

PRESENTED BY:



KEVIN DE LEÓN  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



JUL 0 1 2022

ORIGINAL