

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jennifer Anaya

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**Council File No:** 22-0975

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Honorable Members: On behalf of Bright Star Schools' Valor Academy High School in North Hills, I ask the PLUM committee to support the Historical-Cultural Monument designation for the house located at 15526 Plummer Street. The house located at 15526 Plummer Street in North Hills is an original residence from the 1910s, and it has historical community significance. In purchasing this property to build a permanent campus for Valor Academy Elementary School, Bright Star Schools intends to preserve the house and its historical defining features in alignment with the requirements and guidelines of the US Department of the Interior's standards. Bright Star's Valor Academy schools have provided a high-quality, free, public charter school education to children in North Hills and the San Fernando Valley since 2009. Valor Academy High School was founded in 2013, and since our founding, we have been a strong and committed community partner. Every year, we prepare 500 students for success in higher education, career, and life. All of our Valor graduates (100%) are eligible for admissions to UC or Cal State universities, compared to just 51% of high school graduates in California. With our support, 79% of Bright Star Schools' Class of 2021 students matriculated to 2- and 4-year colleges and universities, compared to just 46% of students from socio-economically similar schools nationwide. To ensure our alumni succeed in and graduate from higher education, we provide up to 6 years of free, higher education support to alumni and connect them with opportunities for internships and career placement. Valor Academy Elementary School's students and families deserve a state-of-the-art, permanent campus that is near our other Valor campuses to support their learning and ensure they have a strong foundation for their K-12 education, higher education, and career. The location at 15526 Plummer Street is less than a mile from our high school campus, and ideal for our families and the community. We operate mentorship programs between our high school students and our elementary school students and the location at 15526 Plummer Street will enable us to grow those high-impact programs. In building a campus at 15526 Plummer Street, Bright Star Schools will preserve the historic house as part of the campus. Bright Star Schools will be an excellent steward of the historic house, and our Valor

Academy public schools will continue to be strong and committed community partners in North Hills. In addition to preserving the historic house, we also intend to incorporate its history into our academic program. We will embrace the history of the 1910s when the house was built, while also acknowledging that our schools and houses in the North Hills community reside on the lands of the indigenous Tongva/Gabrielino people, and recognizing that during the 1910s when the house was built, Latinx community members were prohibited from owning property in North Hills. As the majority of the students and families we serve today at Bright Star Schools are Latinx, we have an opportunity to acknowledge and begin to heal the historical racism of our community and build a brighter future together. Sincerely, Jennifer Anaya Principal, Valor Academy High School  
Bright Star Schools