



PRESERVATION ACTION COUNCIL OF SAN JOSE

Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural Heritage

June 16, 2017

Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of the City Council
200 East Santa Clara St., 18th Floor
San José, CA 95113

RE: 6/20/17 Council Agenda Item 3.9

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers:

The Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC-SJ) was founded in 1990 and is dedicated to preserving San Jose's architectural heritage through education, advocacy and events.

We strongly support the recommendations from Councilmembers Peralez and Rocha to direct staff to develop and implement a strategy to survey potentially historic structures in the city, and to hire a full-time Historic Preservation Officer. Over \$600,000 collected from fines, fees and donations, designated to be used exclusively for historic preservation, sits unused year after year. It is past time to put those funds to good use.

If the City had a complete inventory of its historic resources, historically significant buildings could be identified very early in the development process. Developers and preservationists could then have meaningful discussions with the Planning Department about the protection and reuse of designated historic buildings.

We have advocated for this for many years. We, and others, have urged the City to use the funds already collected and set-aside for this purpose. During meetings of the 2009 Stakeholder's Group convened by Mayor Reed and the Planning Department, developers and preservationists agreed that a level playing field and clarity were needed. There was agreement that complete city surveys would greatly advance those needs.

It is a widely-acknowledged fact that the City's historic resources inventory is out-of-date and inadequate. It is long past time to remedy this deficiency. This recommendation will finally allow the Planning Department to move forward with updating the surveys as well as providing them with adequate staff to manage the survey project as well as other critical historic preservation needs.

Since these funds have been collected for the sole purpose of advancing the City's historic preservation programs it should not be necessary to further delay the process by referring it to the Priority Setting Process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the recommendations and we look forward to finally seeing the survey program move forward.

Sincerely,



Brian K. Grayson
Executive Director

From: Lames < >

Date: June 19, 2017 at 10:49:56 PM PDT

To: mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov, cityclerk@sanjoseca.gov

Cc: <peter.hamilton@sanjoseca.gov>, <david.tran@sanjoseca.gov>,

Subject: Item 3.9: Historic Survey Strategy, 6/20/17 Council meeting

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San José
Members of the Council, City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

via email, sent 6/19/17

re: June 20, 2017 Council Agenda, Item 3.9: Historic Survey Strategy.

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of the Historic Survey Strategy, as described in the June 1st memo by Councilmembers Raul Peralez and Don Rocha.

While not everything that is old is worth saving (and not everything that is worth saving is old), historic structures can add to the character of a city, making it more diverse and more interesting. But many (most?) historic structures in the city are not yet formally recognized, as the landmarking process can be cumbersome. As a result, developers can be surprised when they propose a project only to find out that a structure on their site might be historic. A systematic survey to identify potentially historic structures can reduce the likelihood of these surprises. The survey, supported by a staff-member trained in historic preservation, can also help the developers, city staff, and community begin the dialog on reuse and/or preservation if a structure is historic.

As I wrote in a recent Mercury News guest editorial (5/25/17), "San Jose is both California's first settlement and a modern city, made distinctive by pockets of historic character. It is critical that we preserve our remaining structures that evoke a sense of place."

Thank you,

~Larry Ames
(proud owner of a restored 1925 Willow Glen bungalow)

cc: David Tran and Peter Hamilton, staff to Councilmembers Peralez and Rocha
Brian Grayson and Gayle Frank, Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC* SJ)
Ed Saum, chair, SJ Historic Landmarks Commission

From: >

Date: June 20, 2017 at 9:42:30 AM PDT

To: david.tran@sanjoseca.gov

Subject: Preservation fjnds

I am writing to encourage your support for the allocation of funds that have been reserved for preservation to be utilized and overseen by an official preservation officer.

Historical surveys are needed in planning to avoid problems that seem to commonly arise due to lack of surveys when preparing future projects in San Jose. This is a motion whose time has come. Please support this move.

Thank you,

Marilyn Messina

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note® 4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone