

Communication from Public

Name: Christine Mills O'Brien

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 04:15 PM

Council File No: 17-0226-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Item #17-0226-S1 Dear Planning and Land Use Committee Members: Thank you for recognizing the negative affects of unauthorized demolitions (specifically with historic structures). As a person who has designated Hollywoodland (#535) historic retaining walls and six public stairs I would like to share thoughts regarding the development of the ordinance. The city needs an administrative agency/personnel who can work weekends and nights with an ability to cite on demolition issues and others Building and Safety related issues. This is low on the LAPD's list and with their recent reduced funding, the administration will unlikely occur. Owners of historic properties should be better educated on their responsibilities including information of penalties. Many of the suggestions are good. Zimas should also somehow red-flag or communicate penalties etc. Perhaps architects, developers, contractors who illegally demolish properties should be brought before state regulating agencies and licenses be removed. A portion of the citation money should be allocated to Cultural Heritage Restoration Fund. There are many public structures that meet designation criteria that do not have funds available for restoration (#535 being one). If demolition does occur the entire lot/parcel should be included (landscape, hardscape, fencing etc.) Every visual element on a parcel is a character issue and should be recognized and documented in some way. The inventory of all historic structures should be more detailed relative to all architectural and landscape appointments. Maybe updates should be done every five years or so? Not just historic structures are affected by illegal, unauthorized actions. About two decades ago there were two steep, hillside lots in Hollywoodland that were bulldozed over a long holiday weekend. In some ways this is almost worse than a removal of a building: mountains and hills can not be restored. I urge you to consider actions such as illegal grading in this ordinance as well and those actions be administered by the same personnel source. The larger the fee for demolition the more effective, a threat of 5 years laying vacant would be burdensome to most as well as a demand of appropriate, restoration (if possible). Maybe a fee could be attached to the county tax bill that could also be allocated to the Cultural Heritage Restoration Fund. I realize this can be tricky, but also realized most people living in the Hollywood Hills got

duped on the recent approval of HH. The fee was based on state park land and Hollywoodland is surrounded by city park land. That annual tax fee is collected over ten years and in my little neighborhood this will be almost \$400,000 of tax and we will not see a cent of its intent. And finally, the city has done some pretty embarrassing restoration work at times. They need to set an example for preservation through better training and hiring of craftspeople. I can share examples. If the public intentionally desecrates public historic structures there should be standards that apply to them as well. If we do not save and preserve history we will never effectively tell the next generations who we were, how we lived and what shaped us as Angelenos. Respectfully,
Christine Mills O'Brien Hollywoodland

Communication from Public

Name: Donna Williams
Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 05:02 PM
Council File No: 17-0226-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilman O'Farrell, Councilman Koretz, and Planning and Land Use Committee Members: Thank you for addressing the important problem of intentional gutting and demolition of identified or eligible landmark buildings without permits, and most especially the demolition of identified or eligible landmarks. The City of Los Angeles and citizens have spent time and money to identify important landmarks for future generations. Our shared history should not be endangered by greed, callous neglect or willful destruction. LADBS has provided examples of potential solutions that to help you make an informed plan of action. Please lead the way and support the many citizens and the Office of Historic resources who have dedicated time and effort to identify and save the places that reflect our shared history.