

Communication from Public

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LETTER OF OPPOSITION

Date: June 27, 2024

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Opposition to Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez Motion titled

The Guatemalan Community Landmark Naming Project

Council File 24-0491

I, Karina Balderas, am writing this letter because I want to express my deep opposition to The Guatemalan Community Landmark Naming Project that was presented in a motion by Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez which was seconded by Councilwoman Heather Hutt and that is currently being fast tracked through the Los Angeles City Council's various committees.

I oppose this project because I am aware of the fact that Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez is not the original author and or pioneer in this effort to achieve representation and visibility to the Guatemalan Community in the City of Los Angeles.

This project was originally presented by the community in a proposed project titled “The Guatemalan Square” that was later referred to as Council File 22-1094. The applicants of Council File 22-1094 alongside various other community members, residents, constituents, and local area nonprofits worked tirelessly for a period of about 20 months to follow what they believed was “proper procedure.” For 20 months the applicants of Council File 22-1094 which included a local attorney and nonprofit director were lied to, misled, deceived, and disrespected.

I oppose this project because the applicants of Council File 22-1094 have discovered how Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez and her staff member Jose Rodriguez actively participated in sabotaging the proposed community project titled “The Guatemalan Square.” They did this by advising the neighborhood council not to work on the community impact statement which was later said to have not been provided and was the first reason for holding up the approval of this project. It's clear that the intention has been to deny the application to Council File 22-1094 prior to the new ruling that claims none of the applicants live in the proposed block. The new ruling came after the community impact statement was submitted following the claim from the office of Councilwoman Hernandez that the impact statement had not been submitted.



I oppose this landmark project because the optics speak for themselves, Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez seeks to pass her own version of a landmark project to assume all the credit, so she sabotaged Council File 22-1094, and her version of the landmark is her attempt to cover her unethical and perhaps even unlawful conduct. The applicants just want to give the Guatemalan community it's due acknowledgment and honor that many other ethnic groups in Los Angeles have been able to attain, however, attempting to kill The Guatemalan Square project and basically proposing to do the same work that has already been completed by the applicants is an extreme slight on the people and community members who have worked tirelessly to get this project passed in the past 20 months. The way Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez has treated the applicants of "The Guatemalan Square, alongside the various other community members, residents, constituents, and local area nonprofits is a gross departure of her oath to serve the people of Los Angeles District 1.

Submitted by,

Karina Balderas

Board Secretary

The Scholars Factory