

Communication from Public

Name: Miguel Jose Bravo

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Council File No: 25-1518

Comments for Public Posting: SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC COMMENT Council File No. 25-1518 11973-11975 San Vicente Boulevard — Barry Building (HCM #887) Date: April 22, 2026 Position: I OPPOSE the denial of the appeal filed by Angelenos for Historic Preservation. I urge the City Council to GRANT the appeal, rescind the FEIR certification, and deny the demolition permit. This comment supplements my earlier submission to this council file. My name is Mike Bravo. I am a fifth-generation Venice, California resident, founder of Defend Venice (defendvenice.org), former two-term Venice Neighborhood Council board member, and lead applicant on the successful Historic-Cultural Monument designation for the First Baptist Church of Venice. I raise the following concerns for the record: 1. AB 52 CONSULTATION WAS NOT COMPLETED The FEIR concludes "No Impact" to tribal cultural resources. However, the City's own 2020 documentation establishes artificial fill at this site extends to approximately two feet. The project requires excavation to five feet. The three-foot differential consists of undisturbed native soil that the consulting tribe — the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians, Kizh Nation — identified as high-sensitivity for tribal cultural resources. In August 2022, the tribe formally requested documentation on whether native soils were removed or simply backfilled. The City never responded. Records confirm zero further communication after that request. Internal emails were withheld under attorney-client privilege. This site is located within the area associated with Kuruvungna, a documented Gabrieleno sacred village predating the City of Los Angeles by thousands of years. A California court recently held in a published AB 52 decision that meaningful consultation requires "reciprocal communication, thorough documentation, and a demonstrable effort to address tribal concerns," and vacated the environmental review where those standards were not met. The City's conduct here does not meet that standard. 2. THE FEIR CONTAINS A MATERIAL DISCREPANCY The "No Impact" finding relies on the assertion that excavation occurs only within previously disturbed fill. The City's own geotechnical data contradicts this. A two-foot fill depth and a five-foot excavation depth are not reconcilable. This unresolved factual conflict is material to the FEIR's conclusions and should not have been certified. 3. DANGEROUS

PRECEDENT FOR ALL 1,300+ HCMs This would be the first time a designated HCM is demolished with no replacement project. The property owner controls two adjacent parcels already cleared — three contiguous parcels on one of the most valuable commercial corridors on the Westside. If approved, any landmark owner can replicate this sequence: vacate, neglect, cite the resulting blight, and obtain demolition through BBSC rather than the standard preservation process. This threatens every designated HCM in the City, including the First Baptist Church of Venice and other heritage sites communities have fought to protect. 4.

THE CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

RECOMMENDED AGAINST DEMOLITION The Commission voted unanimously to preserve the Barry Building and urged that a Statement of Overriding Considerations not be adopted. LADBS overrode this recommendation. The Council should give appropriate weight to its own expert body's findings. 5.

PROCEDURAL CONCERNS The February 24, 2026 PLUM hearing was the subject of a Cure and Correct letter citing Brown Act violations with video evidence. The March 4 consent calendar vote was reversed the same day for reconsideration. The statutory deadline expired March 6. Subsequent extensions were obtained through applicant consent of disputed legal validity. The April 14 de novo hearing was attended by the appellant under formal protest. These irregularities, taken together, do not reflect the deliberate review that the first-ever demolition of a designated HCM for no project requires. --- I respectfully urge the City Council to grant the appeal, rescind the FEIR certification, and deny the demolition permit. Thank you for your consideration. Mike Bravo Founder, Defend Venice Venice, California