



Public Comments Not Uploaded Barry Building, Brentwood

1 message

'Linda Kent' via Clerk-PLUM-Committee <clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 10:51 AM

Reply-To: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

To: "clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org" <clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org>

City Clerk/To Whom It May Concern,

Please seriously reconsider demolition of the Barry Building in Brentwood CA on San Vicente Blvd. The building is an architectural treasure and has great meaning to the community. It has been spared so far and hope it will continue to stand and be loved.

Please upload my comments directly to Council File No. 25-1518 in the City Clerk's Council File Management System.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Linda Kent

Linda Kent

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Public Comments Not Uploaded Council File 25-1518 — Support the Appeal. Oppose Demolition of the Barry Building.

1 message

Gerald Baggett

Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 10:54 AM

Reply-To: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

To: "Candy.Rosales@lacity.org" <Candy.Rosales@lacity.org>, "clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org" <clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org>

Cc: "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "elizabeth.ene@lacity.org" <elizabeth.ene@lacity.org>, "heather.hutt@lacity.org" <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, "hakeem.parke-davis@lacity.org" <hakeem.parke-davis@lacity.org>, "councilmember.park@lacity.org" <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, "jeff.khau@lacity.org" <jeff.khau@lacity.org>, "councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org" <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, "madelynn.taras@lacity.org" <madelynn.taras@lacity.org>

To the Members of the PLUM Committee:

I urge you — unequivocally — to support the appeal and oppose demolition of the Barry Building (Historic-Cultural Monument No. 887).

Let us be clear about what is happening here.

The City is poised to allow the demolition of a designated Historic-Cultural Monument with **no replacement project proposed**. This is unprecedented in Los Angeles. It is not development. It is not revitalization. It is erasure — followed by a vacant lot.

And it is being justified through a process that effectively rewards neglect.

The Los Angeles Conservancy has documented the long history of advocacy surrounding this building and the dangers of allowing demolition by neglect to succeed. If an owner can allow a landmark to deteriorate, generate nuisance complaints, and then argue demolition is the only solution, the Historic-Cultural Monument program becomes meaningless.

This Is Bigger Than One Building

This is about precedent.

If demolition proceeds without a project attached:

- The future owner can later pursue a “by-right” development.
- CEQA review can be minimized or avoided.
- The community loses leverage for environmental study.
- Traffic, density, and infrastructure impacts go unexamined.
- Public hearings become procedural formalities rather than meaningful oversight.

In effect, demolition now becomes a procedural strategy to sidestep scrutiny later.

That should concern every Angeleno — regardless of how they feel about this particular structure.

A Democratic Process — Or Administrative Expediency?

Los Angeles is a city governed by public process. Environmental review, public hearings, cultural preservation — these are not obstacles; they are democratic safeguards.

When government bodies begin acting as though they can accelerate outcomes by narrowing public input, minimizing oversight, or redefining precedent to suit convenience, that is not stewardship. It is executive overreach.

Frankly, it begins to resemble the type of centralized, dismissive governance that many in this city actively reject on the national stage.

Los Angeles cannot condemn Washington, D.C. for bypassing process while quietly doing the same here at home.

The Architectural and Cultural Significance

The Barry Building, designed in 1951 by Milton Caughey, represents a transitional moment in Los Angeles's embrace of California Modernism — modest, material-honest, democratic in scale. It housed Dutton's Bookstore for over two decades, embedding itself in the intellectual life of Brentwood.

It may not be ornate. It may not be grand. But preservation is not a beauty contest.

If we only protect the spectacular, we lose the authentic.

The Ethical Question

If the City allows a landmark to be demolished after years of deterioration without a replacement plan, what incentive remains for responsible stewardship?

What message does that send to every owner of a Historic-Cultural Monument?

Maintain it — or let it decay until demolition becomes “inevitable”?

That is not preservation policy. That is surrender.

I urge you to:

- Support the appeal
- Oppose demolition
- Protect CEQA integrity
- Reject demolition by neglect as a tactic
- Preserve the credibility of Los Angeles' Historic-Cultural Monument program

Do not allow a landmark to be reduced to a vacant lot in order to bypass our community's right to public hearings and environmental review.

Respectfully,
Gerald Bagg



Public Comments Not Uploaded Barry Building

1 message

Janna Gelfand [REDACTED]

Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 11:59 AM

Reply-To: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

To: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

To whom It may concern ~

Re: Council File #25-1518 for
[11973-11975 San Vicente Blvd.](#)
[LA CA 90049](#)

I oppose the appeal for the Barry Building in Brentwood. Rather, I support demolition of the building.

The building is an eyesore as well as a safety hazard. It has proven to cost too much to retrofit It to meet earthquake standards. No one will buy It and the homeless are calling It "home". It is a fire risk as well, because the homeless are cooking with small fuel canisters that they use to heat their food and their bodies in the cold weather.

The building is a blight on our community as It has been sitting empty since Dutton's Books shuttered in 2007.

Our neighbors prefer to see neighborhood-serving retail, restaurants and other services in this highly walkable area.

Please destroy this building so the land may be used to serve, rather than hinder, the residents of Brentwood.

Thank you for your attention,

Janna E Gelfand

[REDACTED]



Public Comments Not Uploaded Council File #25-1518 for 11973-11975 San Vicente Blvd, LA 90049

1 message

Chelsea Rana [REDACTED]

Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 12:58 PM

Reply-To: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

To: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

Cc: traci.park@lacity.org, craig.bullock@lacity.org, info@southbrentwood.org

To whom this may concern,

I oppose the appeal and support the demolition of the abandoned Barry Building (Council File #25-1518 for 11973-11975 San Vicente Blvd).

This building is a safety hazard with earthquake and fire risk and must be torn down now. This building is an eyesore and has been sitting vacant for 18. years. We would love for the opportunity for retail or restaurants to be available in such a central and walkable part of our neighborhood.

Thank you.

Chelsea Rana
[REDACTED]