

14-0225
FEB 19 2014

MOTION

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Section 22.171.10 of the Administrative Code provides that the City Council, the Cultural Heritage Commission, or the Director of Planning, may initiate consideration of a proposed site, building, or structure as a Historical-Cultural Monument. The Cultural Heritage Commission, after reviewing and investigating any such Council-initiated designation, shall approve or disapprove in whole or in part the proposed inclusion and submit a report upon such action to the Council. In addition, Section 22.171.12 of the Administrative Code provides that there shall be a temporary stay of demolition, substantial alteration or removal of any such proposed location or structure pending designation.

The *John L. Matheson/Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) California Mission Residence*, located at 2067 South Hobart Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90018, is a significant historic resource in its neighborhood, West Adams Heights. It was designed by a Master Architect, Fredrick Roehrig, who also designed the Frederick Hastings Rindge Mansion (Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 95, also located in the West Adams Heights tract at 2263 South Harvard Blvd.); the Ramsey-Durfee Mansion, Historic Cultural Monument No. 230 located at 2425 S. Western Ave.; the Ezra Stimson House, Historic Cultural Monument No. 456 located at 839 West Adams Blvd.; and "Castle Green" located at 99 S. Raymond Avenue in Pasadena.

The Matheson/LDS Mission Residence contributes to the community as an important reminder of the heyday of West Adams Heights, which was an exclusive gated tract developed by the partners in Pacific Mutual Life Insurance in the early years of the 20th century. It is also associated with a significant later owner, the Church of Latter Day Saints, for which this residence became its California Mission and Western headquarters in the late 1920s, as well as the later home of the President of LDS's California Mission, Henry H. Blood, the former Governor of Utah.

The Matheson/LDS Mission Residence is currently for sale in the amount of \$1.2 Million, and endangered because there are plans to sell it as a development project for multi-family housing, with a proposal to demolish the entire interior to accommodate the units, even though the unique interior spaces are very significant, both architecturally and historically. The Gothic Revival elements, an unusual use of materials, exotic wood inlays and tiles, exceptional brickwork in the rear courtyards and loggia, and significant indoor-outdoor flow all combine to make this a distinctive and rare property, and the loss of these elements would be irreplaceable.

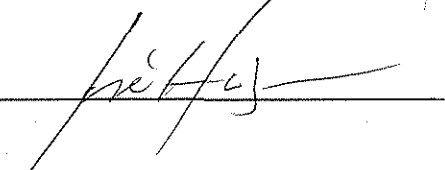
The Matheson/LDS Mission Residence is also endangered simply because the proposed sale is part of a probate process that did not require any disclosures to prospective purchasers regarding the property's zoning, location within the designated Harvard Heights HPOZ, or its own unique history and architecture.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council initiate consideration of the *John L. Matheson/Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) California Mission Residence*, located at 2067 South Hobart Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90018, as a City Historic-Cultural Monument under the procedures of Sec. 22.171.10 of the Administrative Code, and instruct the Planning Department to prepare the Historic-Cultural Monument application for review and consideration by the Cultural Heritage Commission.

I FURTHER MOVE that after reviewing the application, the Cultural Heritage Commission submit its report and recommendation to the Council regarding the inclusion of the *John L. Matheson/Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) California Mission Residence* in the City's list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.


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PRESENTED BY: 
HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY: 

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