

TO: PLUM COMMITTEE
City of Los Angeles
Case: TT-72725-CN-1A
ENV-2014-2510-MND

Monday, August 31, 2015

I represent a neighborhood in Sherman Oaks called Valleyheart North Historic Group. Our streets are part of the Historic LA Survey as well as the River Mansionization Ordinance. We support the effort to preserve historical buildings in Valley Village.

Los Angeles is composed of unique communities that are supposed to be preserved by the Municipal Zoning Codes as well as the Specific and General Plans and CEQA. But, to our dismay, developers, enabled by the Planning Department and the Department of Building & Safety, ignore the laws and demolish unique properties, replacing them with outsized buildings that detract from the character of the neighborhood and lower property values.

Valleyheart North Historic Group urges you to stop this disastrous and environmentally destructive path of allowing developers run wild. Those of us in Sherman Oaks, Studio City and Valley Village are justifiably proud of the historic buildings that make our neighborhoods unique.

When our neighborhood fought to keep out high-density condos that would have created enormous environmental damage to our neighborhood the city denied us our rights. It was only until we took the city and the developer to court that we won--and the existing, low density buildings remain.

You have received many arguments that prove the demolition of the property on Hermitage Avenue was illegal. Please do the right thing and abide by the laws of CEQA and the Zoning Code.

Sincerely,

Lisa Seidman
Valleyheart North Historic Group
4540 Nagle Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

August 31, 2015

Los Angeles PLUMM Committee and the Los Angeles City Council:

I am the elected representative for the neighborhood group known as the Sherman Oaks Preservation Group.

Approximately 95% of our group are natives to Los Angeles. We share the common factor of having a deep love and appreciation for our city and for our neighborhood.

The other common factor we share is the inexcusable conduct of builders that has taken place throughout the city. Not only do we have the right to have our neighborhoods preserved and respected, but we have a responsibility to do so. And should something prevent us from doing so, then it is the responsibility of our elected Council-members to step in and protect us. That is what a City Council is for. That is why we elected you in the first place. Because we were under the impression, you were the best suited choice for the job.

This case has been a tragedy. The audacity of this person to come into this neighborhood and do everything he did, harming everyone in his way is inexcusable. Most tragic, when neighbors called their Council office for help and no one would speak to any of them. Completely Inexcusable. Any decision made that permits this project to continue would be completely ludicrous and unjust. One does not get rewarded for breaking the law.

Valley Village is a unique place. It is filled with history and has been known for reflecting that history for as long as I can remember. There is no excuse to destroy that history. It is an incredibly well established neighborhood. The message will not be sent that this type of behavior is permuted in this community; in ANY community for that matter - but this one in particular---is a force to be reckoned with.

The appellants in this case have the full support of The Sherman Oaks Preservation Society. Each and every one of us is outraged at the mere thought of this project being approved. and feel incredibly sympathetic towards this community.

There is no excuse for breaking the laws.

Our Council members have a responsibility to ensure the wrongs in the city are made to be right. Who else do we count on to do that if not our elected officials.

Respectfully,
Hilary Steinberg
Sherman Oaks Preservation Group

From: Charlie Fisher <xxxxxxx@hotmail.com>
 Date: Thu, 28 May 2015 22:34:54 +0000
 To: Karo Torossian <karo.torossian@lacity.org>
 Cc: Adrian Fine <afine@laconservancy.org>, Lambert Giessinger <lambert.giessinger@lacity.org>, Shannon Ryan <shannon.ryan@lacity.org>
 Subject: RE: Dougherty House Significance Statement

Hi Karo,

The permit application that you are referring to was never posted on the Building and Safety website (See Attached).

No one was ever made aware of it being out there.

We are requesting that this demolition be stayed until this can be sorted out.

I really think that the last three digits of the never posted application number may be indicative to what is going on here.

Thanks,
 -Charlie

5258 N HERMITAGE AVE 91607

Application/Permit #	PC/Job #	Type	Status	Work Description
15019-20000-00496	B15VN01521	Bldg-Demolition	Issued 4/23/2015	DEMO SFD TO CLEAR LOT
15019-20000-00498	B15VN01521	Bldg-Demolition	Issued 4/23/2015	DEMO SFD TO CLEAR LOT
14010-20000-02829	B14VN10781	Bldg-New	Reviewed by Supervisor 9/23/2014	New 2-story, 5 unit aptment over basement garage
14030-20000-05392	B14VN10777	Grading	Application Submittal 8/29/2014	VOID
15030-10000-03449	B15LA07014	Grading	Submitted 5/20/2015	GRADING PLAN R&R. SITE GRADING. (7579=CY). RET. WALL (\$15,000)
98044-40000-09504	--	HVAC	Permit Finaled 1/11/2007	REPLACE FLOOR HEATER

Date: Thu, 28 May 2015 14:45:30 -0700
Subject: Re: Dougherty House Significance Statement
From: karo.torossian@lacity.org
To: xxxxxxxx@hotmail.com
CC: afine@laconservancy.org; lambert.giessinger@lacity.org; shannon.ryan@lacity.org

Hi Charles

This is what I got from LADBS:

It appears the demolition application was applied for last year (inspection date 03-14-2014) and therefore not subject to the new ordinance.The DPI # is 14019-20000-00666.

Regards

Karo

On May 28, 2015 2:05 PM, "Charles Fisher" <xxxxxxx@hotmail.com> wrote:

Hi Shannon,

Here is the updated significance statement for the Dougherty House. Please get this scheduled for the June 18th hearing.

The demolition permit should not have been issued because the property was never posted under the new ordinance.

The ordinance passed Council and was signed by the Mayor on Dec 2, 2014 and went into effect on January 15, 2015.

The application for the permits (one for each building) were submitted on February 6, 2015.

As the owner plans to begin work tomorrow, it is crucial that these permits be stayed.

Thanks,

-Charlie

SUBMIT TO ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

*Charles J. Fisher, Historian
140 S. Avenue 57
Highland Park, CA 90042
Phone: 323/256-3593 Fax: 323/255-0041
Email: arroyoseco@hotmail.com*

August 31, 2015

City of Los Angeles
Planning and Land Use Committee
200 N. Spring Street, 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attn: Jose Huizar

RE: TT-72725-CN-1A
ENV 2014-2510-MND

Dear Councilmember Huizar and members of PLUM,

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to the approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the map for Tract No. 72725. There are a number of procedural issues on this particular item that have compromised the process and have ignored viable information that was repeatedly submitted about the historic background of the property.

The rear house was fully documented as the home of Norma Jean Dougherty (aka Marilyn Monroe) at the time she was discovered by Hollywood. It was also a rare example of extant workers housing from when the San Fernando Valley was an agricultural area, dating from about 1912, seven years before the area was annexed to Los Angeles.

The MND documents always stated that there was “no impact” on historic resources, in spite of this information. The Marilyn Monroe connection has been

known in the neighborhood for many years and presented to the developer early in the process, yet it was never addressed in the MND.

The other issue is the demolition permit itself. The permits were applied for on February 6, 2015, after the requirement that properties over 45 years old needed to be posted for 30 days before they can be issued was implemented by the City Council. The property was never posted and the existing permit was discovered just before the property was scheduled to go before the Cultural Heritage Commission.

I specifically reached out to Karo Torossian, Councilmember Krekorian's Planning Deputy. He responded that the permit had been applied for on March 14, 2014 under number 14019-20000-00666. That item was never posted on the Building and Safety website, nor was the item that the owners representative cited as being applied for in October of 2014.

The houses were both demolished, without any of the required safety mitigation or dust abatement on the morning of June 15, 2015, three days before it was to go before the Cultural Heritage Commission. This was right after the agenda was issued for that hearing. Odd coincidence.

These items show that the environmental process was flawed and the documents were incomplete and misleading.

I am therefore asking that the appeal filed by Donna Gooley on behalf of the neighbors and community of Valley Village be adopted and that the entire determination for the project at 5258 Hermitage Avenue be denied.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles J. Fisher,
Historian