

MOTION

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 Historic-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 on 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 proposed location or structure pending designation.

The property located at 2300 Ocean Front Walk, Venice, CA 90291, is built and owned by the City of Los Angeles as the Venice Lifeguard Station. It is a three-story hexagonal building with surrounding yard, the work of master landscape architects Cornell, Bridgers & Troller, together with architects Prescott, Whalley & Weit.

Built in 1968, the building, and particularly its distinctive 40 foot hexagonal tower, is architecturally significant and an icon of Venice Beach. It is classic mid-century design: wood beam and glass with wrap around deck, located in the center of Santa Monica Bay on Venice Beach. The view from the tower is an unparalleled 360 degree unobstructed view of the entire Santa Monica Bay, ocean, islands, coastline, mountains and city.



Venice Beach is the most visited tourist destination in Los Angeles and the most visited beach of the State of California. Both local residents and tourists enjoy the beach for recreation in our natural environment and to experience its unique, world renown, eclectic multi-cultural artistic community.

The building repeats the distinctive hexagonal design of the historic Venice Beach “Pagoda” shade structures which span Ocean Front Walk. It is identified as historic by The Los Angeles Department of Planning, Office of Historic Resources as described in Historic LA: “Rare example of a lifeguard station headquarters building in Venice; appears to be the only example along this stretch of the beach. ...Eligibility standards for lifeguard stations have not been established; therefore, the evaluation could not be completed.”

As LA Lifeguard Headquarters for over 50 years, the tower embodies the cultural history of our beach and the lifeguards who have made it safe. Of note, as Los Angeles embarks on hosting the 2028 Olympics, LA Lifeguards have competed in each of the past 40 years of Olympic competitions.

It is imperative that the City's historic-cultural treasures be celebrated, and foremost, that its iconic historical sites be preserved for future generations. As such, the historic-cultural merits of

this property need to be assessed, especially as it relates to Monument Designation Criteria 3 the embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council initiate consideration of the property located at 2300 Ocean Front Walk, Venice, CA 90291 as a City Historic-Cultural Monument under the procedures of Section 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 Venice Lifeguard Station, located at 2300 Ocean Front Walk, Venice CA 90291, in the City's list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

PRESENTED BY: _____

TRACI PARK
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: _____