

Historical Society
of LONG BEACH



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BRY MYOUN

September 6, 2005

The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal
Council Member, 1st District, City of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor
Long Beach CA 90802

Re: Item 26, September 4 Agenda

Dear Council Member Lowenthal,

The Historical Society of Long Beach is very pleased that you are taking a leadership role in identifying and preserving local sites and structures that are culturally or historically significant. Your recommendations to undertake a citywide survey, develop means to address significant assets throughout potential new development and request the Redevelopment Agency to develop preservation protocols are important steps that can assist our understanding of the cultural and historic fabric of our community, and the Society looks forward to collaborating with other institutions, the preservation community and Planning and RDA staff in developing standards and procedures.

The Society recently became aware that the Redevelopment Agency Board has already contracted a survey of architectural resources in the downtown area, and we commend the RDA Board for that action. I am attaching a letter that we received from the contracted surveyor on Friday, September 2, requesting our response no later than September 7, and we appreciate the invitation to make input. We do have concerns, however, regarding the contractor's seeming lack of outreach to the broader community, failure to directly utilize our research center and imposing such undue time constraints on volunteer organizations immediately prior to a holiday weekend. In that light, we hope that contractor selection, scope of work, survey criteria and best utilization of local resources will be addressed in any new protocols that may be implemented.

As you know, the Historical Society of Long Beach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that promotes, develops, exhibits and preserves Long Beach history. We are the city's largest historical repository, and our collection of more than 49,000 objects, 28,000 photographic images and 21,000 documents ranging from 19th century land deeds to architectural drawings is acquired, preserved and interpreted entirely through volunteer efforts and donations. Combining our resources with those of the Long Beach Public Library, California State University, Long Beach Heritage, Rancho Los Cerritos, Rancho Los Alamitos and the city's many qualified organizations and individuals, we are sure there is a wealth of local information and talent to be tapped as this process moves forward.

Thank you for your continued interest in bringing the city's cultural and historic resources to light.

Sincerely,

Julie Bartolotto
Executive Director

cc: Redevelopment Agency Board