



Date: September 6, 2005
To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Councilmember Bonnie Lowenthal, First District *BL*
Subject: Historical Survey

The City of Long Beach has many buildings and structures that might be considered culturally or historically significant. It is important for the city to have an inventory of such in order to either preserve them or perhaps include them in some fashion in a planned project. A good example of a building that was not considered culturally or historically significant is the Julian Ship Supply building in West Gateway that was designed by Long Beach architect, Cecil Schilling. A citywide survey would help locate and identify such buildings for future consideration or designation.

Also, a process needs to be implemented in the Planning and Building Department that would flag all existing historic properties prior to issuing permits or approving plans in plan check. All properties located in an historic district should also be flagged. This would allow for consideration of such properties in the context of either historical or cultural preservation.

As many buildings or structures may also fall within the Redevelopment Agency areas, it is also important that the RDA develop a written protocol for dealing with historic or landmark properties.

RECOMMENDATION:

I request that a citywide survey be undertaken by the Planning and Building Department that will include schools as well as other buildings or structures that might be considered culturally or historically significant.

I also request that the Planning and Building Department develop a process so that projects might be identified or flagged prior to issuing approvals through plan check or issuing permits.

I also would like to request that the RDA develop a written protocol for dealing with historic or landmark properties.