

R-27 CORRESPONDENCE – Cheryl Perry

From: Cheryl Perry [<mailto:perry351@charter.net>]
Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2015 9:56 AM
To: Council District 1
Cc: cityclerk; Mayor; City Manager
Subject: Agenda Item #27 January 6, 2015 City Council meeting



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Long Beach Heritage and the preservation community urge the re-instituting of the Mills Act program through your **approval** of the Agenda Item #27 to "**Adopt the recommended revisions to the City's Mills Act Property Tax Incentive Program for historic properties (Citywide)" with the exception of the proposed application fees.**

We would like to commend the Development Services staff for their diligent research and evaluation of the Mills Act program and we understand their dilemma with their required cost recovery for their services, however, landmark status fees of \$900 plus the Mills Act application fees of over \$1100 per unit could make this an unusable program. The City has many eligible 4-6 unit buildings and for those it could cost \$5300- \$7500 in application fees alone. The recommendation by GPA, the City's historic preservation consultant, was for much lower fees. **We ask that the fee structure be re-examined in order to make the program one that can be successfully utilized.**

No one that takes on a preservation project ever expects to recoup all of their money. It is impossible. They do it because of their love of historic buildings and architecture. The amount of property tax savings is small compared to the amount of money and labor they invest into the project. But the value to **every council district** in the city for the help in preserving its historic resources is huge.

In 2010 when the City Council adopted the Historic Preservation Element of the General Plan, there was an Implementation Measure #I.M.2.5 that stated "The City will reestablish the Mills Act program for owners of designated historic properties and will implement a program to inspect and monitor existing Mills Act properties and to review new applications to ensure that proposed projects meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation".

If the fees are modified, approval of this Agenda Item will accomplish the already approved Implementation Measure.

As a Certified Local Government, Long Beach has recognized that preservation of historic properties provides an economic benefit to the city through conserving resources and reinvestment as well as helping to revitalize older areas, create cultural tourism, build civic pride and retaining a sense of place and continuity with the city's past.

Thank you for your support of our preservation efforts through the re-institution of the **amended** Mills Act.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Perry, President
LONG BEACH HERITAGE