

March 19, 2007

Dear Vice Mayor Lowenthal,

On behalf of Long Beach Heritage, please accept this letter of support for an interim zoning ordinance to require review of all demolition permits for structures greater than 45 years of age.

As you are aware, frequently, demolition permits are issued for buildings both commercial and residential without any overview by staff as to the potential contribution the structures may have as an historical or cultural resource.

Our community has lost many valuable buildings over the last few years due in part to the lack of proper evaluation in the permitting process. In many cases, demolition of these buildings would have been prevented or mitigated per CEQA guidelines. Long Beach Heritage believes that a process of staff review can protect our remaining precious historic resources without "bottlenecking" the development and permitting process for homeowners or developers. A process that is clear and concise with discretionary staff review and assessment will allow all parties to benefit from a fair, proactive and transparent process.

Thank you for your critical and strategic support on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Respectfully submittal,

John W. Thomas, Vice President Advocacy  
Long Beach Heritage