

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

To: Members of the Historic Resources
Board, City of Huntington Beach
Kathie Schey, Chair
Charles Epting, Secretary
Ronald Knowles
Susan Nguyen
Joe Santiago
David Wentworth Sr.
Duane Wentworth

BY EMAIL

cc. Jill Hardy, City Council Liaison
Erik Peterson, City Council Liaison
Chris Wong, Staff Liaison
Mary Adams Urashima, Historic Wintersburg Preservation Task Force

Re. Historic Wintersburg Land Sale

We're a group of planners, lawyers, architects, historians and historic resource professionals who reside in Orange County and who represent the county's preservation organization, Preserve Orange County. We stand with the National Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the City of Huntington Beach's own Historic Wintersburg Preservation Task Force in support of the conservation and restoration of Historic Wintersburg, a rare, tangible gem of Japanese-American history. We're consequently very alarmed about the recent announcement of a pending sale of the site to a storage company, and we applaud the Historic Resources Board for calling a special meeting on the matter.

In your capacity as advisors to the Huntington Beach City Council, you have a unique and important opportunity to influence the city's next steps in this matter. The city has within its power to use eminent domain to protect this historic site for the permanent benefit of the public. It may also maintain existing zoning and facilitate a purchase and sale agreement between Republic Services and the Trust for Public Lands.

We therefore suggest to the Historic Resources Board that it make the following recommendations to the City Council:

- that it meet with Republic Services and Public Storage to determine the potential impact of the proposed sale on Historic Wintersburg;
- that it take action to acquire Historic Wintersburg for the benefit of the public; and,
- that it request assistance from the Trust for Public Lands and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to protect Historic Wintersburg from adverse changes.

Preserve Orange County is available to assist the Historic Resources Board and the City Council in any way to preserve and protect the nationally-significant resource of Historic Wintersburg.

Sincerely,

Krista Nicholds President, Board of Directors

Viila Viinolde

Alan Hess Chair, Board of Directors