



P.O. Box 4173 Glendale CA 91202  
[www.GlendaleHistorical.org](http://www.GlendaleHistorical.org)

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Mayor Zareh Sinanyan and Members of the City Council  
City of Glendale  
613 E. Broadway, Suite 200  
Glendale, CA 91206

**Agenda Item 8e: Consideration of Options to Deter Unpermitted Demolitions of Historic Structures**

Dear Mayor Sinanyan and Members of the City Council:

The Glendale Historical Society is grateful for the opportunity to address the proposal to strengthen deterrence measures in order to prevent unpermitted demolitions of historic structures. Established in 1979, our non-profit organization has more than seven hundred members and works to preserve and celebrate Glendale's rich history and remaining architectural heritage.

We very much appreciate how seriously the City has taken this issue. We would also like to commend City staff for their swift efforts both to address the specific situation at 1420 Valley View Road and to generate robust proposals to help prevent a recurrence.

The Glendale Historical Society strongly supports measures to deter unpermitted demolitions of historic structures and asks that the City Council consider increasing to five years the period of time in which rebuilding is prohibited. We believe that the proposal requiring owners to maintain or enhance the property would prevent negative impacts. We also believe that the fine should be increased above \$1,000 to further discourage unwanted activities through immediate financial penalties. The goal is to deter so that no one need ever be penalized.

We also support staff's ideas to: extend deterrence protections to designated and eligible historic properties and historic district contributors; limit new construction to

The Glendale Historical Society (TGHS) advocates for the preservation of important Glendale landmarks, supports maintaining the historic character of Glendale's neighborhoods, educates the public about and engages the community in celebrating and preserving Glendale's history and architectural heritage, and operates the Doctors House Museum. TGHS is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and donations to TGHS are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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the footprint, height, and square footage of the demolished structure; include partial demolition, demolition by neglect, and unpermitted alterations as violations for which reconstruction would be an appropriate remedy; record the period of prohibition with the County Clerk; and prohibit parking and other remunerative uses on vacated sites.

Both the City of Glendale and the State of California have created processes by which structures, even those deemed historic, can be demolished. We urge you to vote to support strong measures to ensure that property owners follow the proper process as intended.

Sincerely,

*Greg Grammer*

Greg Grammer  
President, The Glendale Historical Society

cc: The Honorable Ardy Kassakhian, City Clerk  
Phil Lanzafame, Director of Community Development  
Jay Platt, Senior Urban Designer  
Yvette Neukian, Assistant City Attorney