



P.O. Box 4173 Glendale CA 91202
www.GlendaleHistorical.org

February 1, 2022

Mayor Devine and Members of the Glendale City Council
City of Glendale
613 East Broadway
Glendale, CA 91206
via email

RE: Comments on HPC Meeting January 20th, including Bradley Calvert comments

Dear Mayor Devine and City Council Members:

On January 20th, there was discussion at the Historic Preservation Commission regarding the project at 620 N Brand to build a 24 story apartment building. There was agreement that the Home Savings Bank is a historic resource, but there was disagreement about the historic status of the complementary character-defining parking structure. TGHS and a number of qualified architectural historians (who wrote letters supporting their position) believe it is historic while city staff believes it isn't.

This agenda item was discussed for four hours and towards the end, Bradley Calvert made some remarks that TGHS believes were wrong, inappropriate, and offensive.

First, the comments were given during the staff comment period and not during the public hearing. They were meant to put pressure on the HPC members to allow demolition of the historic garage on subjective, not objective grounds. They would have been more appropriate (if ever) during the public comment period as his opinion as a private citizen.

Secondly, he said that historic preservationists who object to the project are obstructionists and are weaponizing preservation to carry on Glendale's racist policies from the past. So in effect, he's shaded TGHS and its 1,000 + members as enablers of racist policies. This is truly offensive. TGHS's concerns about demolishing a historic resource are not about protecting a bank that is long gone. It's about ensuring that key architectural styles that help define Glendale's growth are protected. We are not obstructionists, but want the proper process followed in evaluating the historical integrity of the whole Home Savings development. TGHS has stated that it supports added housing on the site, but the presence of two important historic resources, one onsite and the other immediately adjacent, comes with constraints. The project should be compatible and suitably scaled to those resources.

You can review Bradley's comments at the 2:53:08 mark in the following recorded HPC meeting that occurred on January 20th, 2022. You can also hear Cathy Jurca's reply at the 3:23:50 mark in the meeting.

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.



I hope you understand our concerns about the tone of this exchange. It was unnecessary and doesn't further our shared goals of building more housing in Glendale, while protecting or mitigating impacts to our precious historic resources.

Respectfully yours,

John Schwab-Sims
VP Preservation
The Glendale Historical Society

CC: Roubik Golanian - Glendale City Manager
Steve Hunt - The Glendale Historical Society - President