



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

March 29, 2024

Glendale City Council
City of Glendale
613 East Broadway
Glendale, CA 91206

RE: Agenda 9b: Community Development, re: Unpermitted Demolition of a Historic Resource at 1239 N. Everett Street, to Consider Issuance of Penalties, and to Authorize Recordation of Instrument Imposing Covenants Memorializing the Penalties

Dear Mayor Brotman and Glendale City Council Members,

The Glendale Historical Society (TGHS) strongly advocates for Glendale's historic resources and historic districts. As such, it is important that property owners of historic resources work with the City to ensure that the historic integrity is maintained with any proposed changes.

TGHS was saddened to see the willful illegal demolition of 1239 N Everett, a contributor to the pending Bellehurst Historic District.

On May 14, 2019, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 5931 to provide robust penalties intended to deter unpermitted demolition of historic resources. This is the first case brought before you to assess these enhanced penalties.

TGHS strongly recommends that all of the enhanced penalties as outlined in the staff report be assessed.

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.

These include:


- Three year construction moratorium
- Mandate that property be cleared and kept in a clean and orderly manner during this period
- Any new construction after this period must either match the demolished property or be within the same footprint, height, and square footage as the house that was demolished

Also, since the demolition was willful and evidence exists that efforts were made after demolition to conceal the extent of their actions, we recommend that misdemeanor charges be filed.

TGHS believes that our historic districts are only as strong as the City's will to enforce penalties for illegal work and/or demolition.

Unfortunately, some homeowners believe that the fine that may be assessed for illegal work is a "cost of doing business" and isn't a strong deterrent. The enhanced penalty of not being able to build on the lot for three years and that any subsequent structure must match or follow the footprint, height, and square footage of the illegally demolished structure could be more effective in deterring this activity in future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Schwab-Sims", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Schwab-Sims
President
The Glendale Historical Society

cc: Suzie Abajian, City Clerk
Bradley Calvert, Director of Community Development
Jay Platt, Senior Urban Designer
Roubik Golonian, City Manager

