



***Penny and Larry Raven***

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Ms. Jennifer Clark  
City of Fresno Planning Director  
Fresno City Hall  
2600 Fresno St.  
Fresno, CA 93721

✓ March 25, 2015

Re: Review of City of Fresno Historic District Ordinance

Dear Ms. Clark:

There is currently a proposal to have the beautiful street, where my husband, Larry, and I have resided for 42 years and founded the Huntington Boulevard Homeowners Historical Association, be considered for designation by the City as an Historic District.

Since neighbors, over a decade ago, first investigated the requirements of the ordinance there were many questions. These rules are far more restrictive than many others. In 2008 I researched historic district ordinances of 42 different California cities and prepared a report on how other municipalities deal with these issues. I presented it to the City Historical Preservation Commission at a meeting in 2008 and did not receive an itemized reply to the issues.

On August 8, 2014, HBHHA president Mary Funk wrote a letter (attached) to Historic Preservation Project Manager Ms. Karana Hattersley-Drayton with questions on some of the rules and citing specific parts of the Ordinance and requesting a written answer to each of these. To date this has not been received.

A few residents and Ms. Hattersley-Drayton have proceeded to work on preparing an application for the Historic District designation. Tonight there is a meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Jackson Elementary School to allow the affected residents to learn further details. Much to my disappointment, I may not be able to attend as I have a 5:00 p.m. board meeting that was scheduled several months ago for a nationally known California corporation in which I am an elected Director.

Some of our major concerns are:

1. The same rules apply to all property types – commercial, professional and residential, though residential owners clearly have different needs.
2. Percentage of owners (majority) to request designation is so low that 51% of owners will impose restrictions unwanted by 49% and, thus, create neighborhood dissent and disagreements.
3. Permit applications are subject to review by only one person, the historic project manager. This creates an unfair burden on the manager (one opinion) and time frame (manager is ill or out of office) and gives further delay to applicant who may have been requesting permit for safety reasons or an imminent threat.
4. Restrictions imposed may limit marketability of properties as it narrows the pool of prospective buyers who are willing to abide by rules.

For over 10 years I have been appointed by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to serve on the Fresno County Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission and was recently elected Vice-Chairman. I am most familiar with the County requirements for Historic Districts and those rules are far less stringent while, at the same time, greatly encourage preservation.

Please review the attached letter from Mrs. Funk with which I agree completely. I am happy to provide any other information that I have that you might feel is helpful. I am requesting that we meet soon to discuss this as the application is slated for the April 27, 2015 Planning Commission and, if the Ordinance is to be revised, the revisions should apply, as a courtesy to the owners, rather than the current rules.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Penny Raven

Cc: Mayor Ashley Swearengin

Sal Quintero, Fresno City Councilmember, District 5

Bruce Rudd, City Manager

Douglas Sloan, City Attorney

Karana Hattersley-Drayton, Historic Preservation Project Manager

Mary Funk, Past president HBHHA

Stephen Barile, Chairman Fresno County Landmarks & Records Commission

Charles F. Springsted

536 Rio View Circle

Fresno CA 93711

March 20, 2015

City of Fresno

Development and Resource Management Department

Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

Historic Preservation Project Manager

RE: Proposed Huntington Blvd. Historic District

Dear Ms. Hattersley-Drayton,

I am the owner of property located at 3115 E. Huntington Blvd. which is within the boundaries of the proposed Huntington Blvd. Historic District. I am opposed to the formation of said district and request my property to be excluded from the proposed Huntington Blvd. Historic District.

Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles F. Springsted". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, sweeping 'S' at the beginning.

Charles F. Springsted

(559) 289-3160 Cell

(559) 441-0536 Home