



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Joseph Horwedel

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: April 18, 2007

Approved

Date

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City Wide
SNI AREA: N/A

SUBJECT: CELEBRATION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH THROUGH PRESENTATION OF: 1) A PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 2007 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH, AND 2) A COMMENDATION TO RECOGNIZE THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE PERALTA ADOBE AS THE FIRST CITY LANDMARK

Please place the presentation of these items on the Ceremonial Items of the May 8, 2007, City Council Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Present a proclamation declaring May 2007 National Historic Preservation Month, and
- 2) Present a commendation to recognize civic and community representatives on the thirtieth anniversary of the recognition of the heritage of all the peoples of San Jose through the designation of the Luis Maria Peralta Adobe structure and site as the first City Landmark No. HL77-01, designated on the bicentennial of the founding of the first civil settlement in California, El Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe.

OUTCOME

The City Council proclamation and commendation would recognize historic preservation as an effective tool in maintaining community character while enhancing livability and celebrate the role of history in the lives of all the peoples of San Jose, while commending the efforts involved in the beginnings of the public recognition of their diverse heritage through the designation of the first San Jose City Landmark.

BACKGROUND

Each year, communities around the country celebrate the nation's heritage through National Historic Preservation Month. Preservation Month is an opportunity to recognize the efforts of countless residents who have saved and invested in historic resources. Historic buildings and sites make our neighborhoods and communities distinctive. National Historic Preservation Month is hosted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This year's theme is "Making Preservation Work." At the April Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, the Commission selected a liaison to accept a City Council proclamation proclaiming May 2007 Preservation Month in San Jose.

ANALYSIS

San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 13.48, The Historic Preservation Ordinance, adopted in 1975, establishes the procedures for designation of a City Landmark. The Ordinance states that prior to recommending approval of a City Landmark designation to the City Council, the Historic Landmarks Commission shall find that the Landmark has special historical, architectural, cultural, aesthetic, or engineering interest or value of an historical nature, and that its designation as a landmark conforms with the goals and policies of the general plan. In making such findings, the commission may consider relevant factors, with respect to the proposed landmark.

In 1976, the Peralta Restoration Committee worked towards the dedication of the Peralta Adobe Historical Park, which provides a tangible link with San Jose's rich Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and American heritage, on August 25, 1976. The Historic Landmarks Commission recommended City Landmark designation of the Luis Maria Peralta adobe structure and site on January 26, 1977, and the City Council designated the structure and site as San Jose's first City Landmark, No. HL77-01, on February 22, 1977. (see attached resolutions)

The Luis Maria Peralta adobe structure and site were designated as a landmark of special historical, architectural, cultural or aesthetic value or interest as an example of once-common, pioneer domestic architecture; constructed of adobe, the structure is approximately 20 feet by 41 feet in size with walls about 2 feet thick; the adobe and surrounding property were acquired by the city to be restored as an historic park; dedicated in 1976. The designation was based upon the following findings:

1. It is identified and associated with persons and eras that have contributed to local, regional, and state history, heritage, and culture in a significant way, and
2. As it is identified with an architectural style, design and method of construction that is distinctive and significant.

The National Trust encourages communities to participate in activities, such as presenting preservation awards to those who have made a difference in local communities, during this event. The Historic Landmarks Commission felt that acknowledging the thirtieth anniversary of the designation of the Luis Maria Peralta adobe structure and site as the first City Landmark in 1977 would be an appropriate means of celebrating Preservation Month 2007. Civic leaders and community members will participate in the acceptance of the commendation.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Not Applicable

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criteria 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criteria 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criteria 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

Although this item does not meet any of the above criteria, the Historic Preservation Month proclamation item was placed on the Historic Landmarks Commission 2007 agendas, posted on the City's website along with this Council memorandum. Staff has been available to respond to questions from the public

COORDINATION

These ceremonial items were coordinated with the City Attorney.

FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

Not applicable.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

BUDGET REFERENCE

Not applicable.

CEQA

Not a Project.

JOSEPH HORWEDEL, DIRECTOR
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement

For questions please contact Planning, Building and Code Enforcement at 408-535-7800.