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North Area Neighborhood Development Council
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September 1, 2021

Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Councilmember CD 8
200 N. Spring Street
LA, CA 90012

Via email

**RE: 1271 W. 35th Street, architect Paul Williams long time residence, endangered
CHC-2021-6684-HCM**

Dear Councilmember Harris-Dawson,

The Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council (NANDC) Board discussed the above referenced site at their August 5, 2021, Board meeting and adopted the recommendation by unanimous motion: That NANDC support the cultural heritage nomination for the Paul Williams residence at 1271 W. 35th Street, and request that Councilmember support this nomination and move this HCM nomination from the Council floor.

After the meeting we have learned that the nomination has already been deemed complete by Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) staff and that the “take under consideration” step will be reviewed by the CHC on September 5, making a Council motion unnecessary.

However, we ask for your support of this nomination and that a letter of support from you be submitted; that staff attend the September 5 hearing and subsequent hearings. The CHC File number is CHC-2021-6684-HCM; staff contact is Melissa Jones, 213 847-3679.

The Paul Revere Williams House is eligible for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument under Criterion 2 of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance within the context of Architecture and African American history in Los Angeles for its association with Williams. By any measure, the accomplishments of this trailblazing architect are astounding. In a career spanning almost six decades, Williams designed more than 3,000 buildings and mastered a range of architectural styles. He broke racial barriers,



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becoming the first African American member and fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in the United States.

While Williams was developing professionally, his personal life was also blossoming. In 1917, he married Della Mae Givens. By 1921 they had saved enough money to purchase their own home on 35th Street. The neighborhood was home to a large Black community, in large part because it was free of the restrictive covenants that blanketed most of Los Angeles.

The HCM nomination qualifies as an HCM and deserves designation so that it may join his other designs holding this prestigious designation such as the Angelus Funeral Home, the Founder's Church of Religious Science and The Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building to name a few.

NANDC is a self-governed, self-directed, and independent organization empowered by the Los Angeles City Charter. This charter offers neighborhood councils a role in the City's decision-making process. NANDC was certified by the City of Los Angeles on April 27, 2002 and was the 24th neighborhood council formed under the guidelines of the City Charter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thryeris Mason'.

Thryeris Mason, President

Cc: Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson.

Albizaal Del Valle CD8

Kidada Malloy CD8

Isaias Benavides CD8

NANDC Board