



Public Comment Received for:
Item 1: 26 E Gutierrez St
(PLN2021-00039)

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
1. E. Onja Brown		x

PLEASE BE ADVISED

The following public comment was not received in time to process. Distribution to the Historic Landmarks Commission occurred after the meeting.

May 26, 2021

Second Baptist Church -Public Statement for City Landmark Status

I have been a member since 1987 when I moved to Santa Barbara. Second Baptist Church became my church family home. I quickly learned that the church was a very viable source for many social services, not only for church members, but for non members, as well.

Over the church's 90 year history at the Guitierrez site the Second Baptist Church provided many services that could not otherwise be easily accessed by African Americans. So people relied on the church for help with food, clothing, a temporary place to stay and even help with paying bills

When I joined there were several auxiliary groups, most of which were community or youth oriented. One in particular provided care packages to the homeless that included personal items, such as socks, soap, and clothing, and there were several youth supported programs.

Second Baptist Church left the Gutierrez Street location when the City began development on lower State St. As the upgrades progressed parking became a problem, so it was decided to move to the Mason Street location on the east side. The east side location was more convenient, due to its proximity to public transportation, had ample parking and a community building on church property, located directly across from Franklin School. Since there were several senior church members, there was a discussion with about having an after school "grandparents" tutoring/mentoring program.

The church purchased property for setting up a computer learning center, which was one of the first in the city under the church's new 501c3, Community Achievement Enterprises. In addition, was first to set up food distribution and first to have Back to School events, in which backpacks and school supplies were distributed to students.

For all its contributions to the City of Santa Barbara, Second Baptist Church is deserving of landmark status for its imprint and for 90 years of service at the Guitierrez St location.