

**From:** ["Michael Yarne" <michael@blackoakgroup.co>](mailto:michael@blackoakgroup.co)  
**To:** [LPC@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:LPC@berkeleyca.gov)  
**Date:** 6/2/2026 10:51:29 AM  
**Subject:** Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the current version of the proposed Elmwood Historic District.

The current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

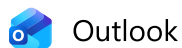
A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Michael Yarne  
michael@blackoakgroup.co  
2442 Valley St  
Berkeley, California 94702

6/2/26, 1:24 PM

Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



---

**Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood**

---

**From** Alison Wahl <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 10:22 AM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

6/2/26, 1:24 PM

Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood - Fu, Boshi - Outlook

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

As a local resident, I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

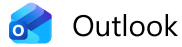
Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Sincerely,  
Alison Wahl  
Berkeley CA

Alison Wahl  
alison.wahl@gmail.com  
1395 Alvarado Rd  
Berkeley, California 94705

6/2/26, 1:28 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



---

**Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood**

---

**From** CHRISTIANA TIEDEMANN <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 11:12 AM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

6/2/26, 1:28 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

Landmarking an eyesore strip mall is absurd. Please maintain your credibility and, and REJECT the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

The application is an attempt to block sorely needed housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to both preserve significant buildings and at the same time provide more housing in Berkeley.

Christiana Tiedemann  
Former ZAB Chair

CHRISTIANA TIEDEMANN  
christiedemann52@gmail.com  
2318 Edwards Street  
Berkeley, California 94702

6/2/26, 1:25 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



---

## Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**From** Jacob Silver <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 10:36 AM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt (and I would argue it's not even thin), to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation.

I mean I like a good Slurpee as much as the next person but are we really at the point where we are considering stopping the ability to provide additional housing for a convenience store? We have to be serious, debate in good faith and this is far from that. Honestly this is almost laughable.

A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning.

The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Jacob Silver  
jbsilver25@mac.com

6/2/26, 1:25 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook

6115 Santa Cruz Ave  
Richmond, California 94804

6/2/26, 1:23 PM

Please reject the application to landmark the 7/11 parking lot - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



---

## Please reject the application to landmark the 7/11 parking lot

---

**From** randy shaw <randy@thclinic.org>  
via email.actionnetwork.org  
**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 10:19 AM  
**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

I have long viewed the 7/11 parking lot as an ideal housing opportunity site. It's perfect for an eight-story apartment building with ground floor retail. Now I hear that there are people claiming the site should be an historic landmark. If that happens it would be a landmark---to a return to Berkeley's failed anti-housing policies of the past. I discuss Berkeley's failed policies in my book *Generation Priced Out* (University of California Press). City policies have since vastly improved. Let's stay on the pro-housing course.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application.

Thank you for your consideration

randy shaw  
randy@thclinic.org  
1524 Scenic Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94708

6/2/26, 1:29 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

---

## Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**From** Alex Sathler <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 12:13 PM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

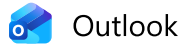
The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Alex Sathler  
sathler10@gmail.com  
1608 Prince St  
Berkeley, California 94703

6/2/26, 1:29 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



---

## The entire Elmwood area should not be a landmark

---

**From** Tawny Reynolds <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 12:14 PM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

6/2/26, 1:29 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

Please reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Some of Elmwood's buildings and streetscapes are valued by residents, but this application is very broad and isn't really credible as a preservation effort. Instead, it looks like an attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district-wide landmark area. Specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building are reasonable landmark targets. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve - not just to obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

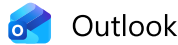
Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, based on evidence of Berkeley's valuable history, and proposed as a good faith effort to compromise with the zoning process taking place in parallel.

Thank you,  
- Tawny Reynolds

Tawny Reynolds  
tawnyann@gmail.com  
1421 Hearst Ave  
Berkeley , California 94702

6/2/26, 1:28 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

---

## Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**From** Olivia Natan <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 12:03 PM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Olivia Natan  
olivia.natan@gmail.com  
2141 Oregon St  
Berkeley , California 94705

6/2/26, 3:41 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

---

## Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**From** Alexander Moore <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 3:13 PM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Alexander Moore  
awmoore@gmail.com  
815 SAN LUIS RD  
BERKELEY, California 94707

6/2/26, 3:40 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

---

## Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**From** Caephren McKenna <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 2:31 PM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Caephren McKenna  
caephren@gmail.com  
392 44th St  
Oakland, California 94609-2225

6/2/26, 1:24 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

---

## Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**From** Chris Lu <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 10:23 AM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Chris Lu  
gogreen.chris@gmail.com  
438 W Grand Ave Apt 513  
Oakland, California 94612



Outlook

---

**Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood**

---

**From** Daniel Keller <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 10:49 AM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Daniel Keller  
dankeller@gmail.com  
5356 James Ave  
Oakland, California 94618

**From:** ["Claude Fischer" <fischer1@berkeley.edu>](mailto:fischer1@berkeley.edu)  
**To:** [LPC@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:LPC@berkeleyca.gov)  
**Date:** 6/2/2026 10:52:26 AM  
**Subject:** Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Having lived a few blocks from College and Ashby for almost 40 years (until last fall)—and loving it—it was always clear to me that College could absorb and even benefit from one or two low-rise (4-6 story) buildings.

Claude Fischer

Claude Fischer  
fischer1@berkeley.edu  
33 LINDA AVE APT 2603  
OAKLAND, California 94611

From: ["Debra Farb" <deb@sippelfarb.com>](mailto:deb@sippelfarb.com)  
To: [LPC@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:LPC@berkeleyca.gov)  
Date: 6/2/2026 12:12:01 PM  
Subject: Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

As an Elmwood resident, I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Debra Farb  
deb@sippelfarb.com  
49 The Plaza Drive  
Berkeley, California 94705

6/2/26, 1:26 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

---

## Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**From** Lee Bishop <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 10:50 AM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

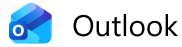
The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Lee Bishop  
bishoplm@gmail.com  
1422 NORTHSIDE AVE  
BERKELEY, California 94702

6/2/26, 1:30 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



---

**Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood**

---

**From** Ranjit Bharvirkar <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Tue 6/2/2026 12:40 PM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

6/2/26, 1:30 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Thank you!

Ranjit Bharvirkar

Ranjit Bharvirkar  
ranjit.bharvirkar@gmail.com  
1836 Arch Street  
Berkeley, California 94709

6/1/26, 10:19 AM

Do not grant landmark status to the Elmwood - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



---

## Do not grant landmark status to the Elmwood

---

**From** Phyllis Orrick <orrickle@duck.com>

**Date** Mon 6/1/2026 8:32 AM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

It's imperative that you reject this effort to freeze a well-resourced section of the city in amber and reinforce its history of racial discrimination and exclusion.

This is nothing more than an attempt to thwart the commendable effort to upzone this part of Berkeley and sabotage the city's efforts to affirmatively further fair housing by opening up the Elmwood to more housing and more residents beyond the privileged few that now occupy it, as demonstrated by the heavy adherence to the 1916 zoning ordinance of more than a century ago (!).

It would be absurd and hypocritical for Berkeley to bless such a cynical maneuver to protect the well-situated few at the expense of the many who have been priced out of Berkeley and would remain so if this effort were to prevail. It is not something a supposedly progressive and inclusive city should be promoting.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application.

Phyllis Orrick  
orrickle@duck.com  
1625 A Kains Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94702

6/1/26, 10:19 AM

Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

---

## Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

---

**From** Sarah Ejigu <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

**Date** Sat 5/30/2026 3:02 PM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Sarah Ejigu  
sarakitaw@gmail.com  
917 Bancroft Way #B  
Berkeley, California 94710

**From:** Pamela Webster <pamelawebster6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2026 7:59 AM  
**To:** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Commercial upzoning

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear commissioners,

I'm writing in support of all efforts to prevent unnecessary large-scale upzoning in the Elmwood, Solano and North Berkeley commercial districts.

I have watched the demise of our downtown over the last few decades, all in the guise of building more housing along major corridors. The housing that developers have provided is not affordable, and many units remain vacant. We've lost established small businesses that had served our residential neighborhoods, and with nothing to show for that loss. A ghost town remains. Had there been a more thoughtful approach to upzoning the downtown, perhaps other districts in Berkeley could follow. But alas, that did not happen, so please protect the architectural character of other commercial districts elsewhere in Berkeley.

Thank you for your work, and your consideration.

Pam Webster,  
1912 Blake Street,  
Berkeley

6/1/26, 10:18 AM

Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

---

**Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood**

---

**From** Namita Dodeja <namita@bhasin.com>  
via email.actionnetwork.org

**Date** Fri 5/29/2026 7:36 PM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I urge you to reject the proposed Elmwood Historic District designation.

Elmwood has buildings and streetscapes that many residents value, but the current application is overly broad and lacks credibility as a preservation effort. It appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to block housing, submitted only after the upzoning process for Elmwood was already underway.

A parking lot, a strip mall, a 7-Eleven, and a mid 1970s post office do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company Building. A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators. It would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not obstruct the zoning process.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive city.

Please reject the current Elmwood Historic District application. Any future preservation proposal should be narrower, evidence based, and a good faith effort to compromise with the parallel zoning process.

Namita Dodeja  
namita@bhasin.com  
2932 Linden Ave  
Berkeley, California 94705

6/1/26, 10:18 AM

Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood - Fu, Boshi - Outlook

6/1/26, 10:16 AM

Elmwood Commercial District - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

---

## Elmwood Commercial District

---

**From** Tim Daniels <timdaniels100@gmail.com>

**Date** Fri 5/29/2026 10:44 AM

**To** Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

**Cc** Kesarwani, Rashi <RKesarwani@berkeleyca.gov>; Gerstein, Beth <BGerstein@berkeleyca.gov>

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I know there is a very well-organized group trying to push this through, but I want to give you some thoughts from your average citizen.

Trying to control/freeze progress doesn't work out very often. Unless you want to turn it into a living history park, you need to let progress move forward. Sure, I'm ok with designating some buildings, but as a commercial district, the main word is commercial. Market forces determine the highest, best use of property. I wouldn't be surprised if some of the businesses supporting the designation are worried their rents will go up if the area becomes more vibrant. Two examples of failed efforts to control progress that come to mind are:

- The West Berkeley Plan - designed to keep good-paying manufacturing jobs available for local residents. There was not a lot of manufacturing, and if there was, the employees couldn't afford to live nearby. The vacant buildings ended up becoming artist studios that property owners had to subsidize with low rents.
- The zoning on Solano and maybe Downtown that limited the number of food service establishments in an effort to shore up small retail. Had to give it up because small retail is a shrinking commercial activity. It's very difficult to fight Amazon

Housing - the city is mandated to build more housing. If not here, then where? Housing in an existing commercial district has many advantages; more foot traffic for the retail stores and food shops, less need for driving, more sales and property tax revenue for the city. If you're worried that it will end up looking like Bay Street, then maybe just ensure the buildings have design details consistent with the architecture of the area.

So don't get sucked into being a tool in a zoning fight, but if there are buildings of architectural and historical significance, go for it.

Tim Daniels