

6/4/26, 11:39 AM

Please Reject the Landmarking of a Parking Lot - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

Please Reject the Landmarking of a Parking Lot

From James Proctor <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Date Thu 6/4/2026 10:58 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.

James Proctor
james.a.proctor.is@gmail.com
314 Alcatraz Avenue 4
Oakland, California 94618

6/4/26, 8:47 AM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Opposition to Elmwood Historic District

From Jeffrey Baker <jwbaker@gmail.com>
Date Thu 6/4/2026 8:05 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.

Dear Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission,

I send this letter in opposition to the proposed Elmwood Historic District, which appears on the June 4th, 2026, meeting agenda as item 7D. I object to the approval of this project and the adoption of the CEQA exemption. The Commission suggests that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA under Section 15308, but the cumulative impacts of the City's landmarking activities and the unusual circumstances of this project preclude the use of the categorical exemption, under Section 15300.2.

The proponents of the district freely admit, in their application packet dated March 2nd, 2026, that the purpose of the district is to thwart the City's adopted General Plan Housing Element of 2023, to prevent "up-zoning" and "tall apartment houses" (15. HISTORY, pg. 8). By directly contradicting the City's duly adopted Final EIR of the Housing Element Update, the project proponents foreclose the use of the 15308 exemption. The City has made findings that the commercial corridor upzoning is the preferred alternative. To overturn that finding under categorical exemption would be an abuse of the Commission's authority. The unusual circumstances exist by the proponents' admission, and the required environmental analysis cannot be waived.

Furthermore, the Commission cannot rely on a 15308 exemption because the proposed district triggers the cumulative impacts exception under 15300.2(b). Over the past fifty years, since the enactment of the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance in 1974, this Commission has systematically and successfully designated over 300 individual landmarks and historic districts across Berkeley. While each individual designation may have been evaluated as an isolated regulatory action, their collective, long-term effect has been a steady reduction in the city's capacity for infill development. By the explicit admission of the applicants themselves, this designation is not an act of aesthetic appreciation, but a reactive land-use intervention designed to prevent the "tall apartment houses" and counteract the up-zoning program established by the City Council. Because the Housing Element Update and its certified Final EIR relied on these exact College Avenue parcels as opportunity sites to meet housing production and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) mandates, using a categorical exemption to block that density constitutes an illegal piecemealing of land-use policy. This proposed district represents the precise tipping point where successive preservation actions cumulatively disrupt the broader environmental and climate strategies of the General Plan, creating a substantial, foreseeable physical displacement impact that cannot be brushed aside without a Supplemental EIR.

I ask that the Commission deny the application unless and until proper environmental review is undertaken.

6/4/26, 8:47 AM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook

Sincerely,
Jeff Baker
Berkeley

From: ["Eric Sippel" <eric@sippelfarb.com>](mailto:eric@sippelfarb.com)
To: LPC@berkeleyca.gov
Date: 6/3/2026 7:31:00 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,

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

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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.

Eric Sippel
eric@sippelfarb.com
49 Plaza Drive
Berkeley, California 94705

From: ["Gary Miguel" <garymm@garymm.org>](mailto:garymm@garymm.org)
To: LPC@berkeleyca.gov
Date: 6/3/2026 1:24:04 PM
Subject: Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

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N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

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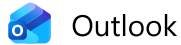
The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the 1916 zoning ordinance, the ordinance that first introduced racialized single-family zoning to Berkeley, is not something we should be embracing as an inclusive and progressive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

Gary Miguel
garymm@garymm.org
3037 Ellis Street
Berkeley, California 94703

6/3/26, 1:48 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Don't make the Elmwood a Historic District

From Zachary Russ <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Date Wed 6/3/2026 11:53 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 immediately reject the proposal to designate the Elmwood as a Historic District, for a few simple reasons:

- It is a transparently NIMBY attempt to use historical preservationism to sabotage construction of housing as approved by voters and required by state law (again approved by voters). This rushed out application includes requests to preserve, among other things, a "concrete grid wall" (present on lots of dingbat apartment buildings all over Berkeley), "A rhythm of three storefront bays separated by piers" (never had three of anything before), and "Moorish arches" (although we are not in Iberia).
- Landmarking puts a substantial burden on the owners and operators of landmarked properties. Improvements such as energy-saving windows (or even less-leaky ones) and addition of new doors or accessibility features can be required to go before the LPC, adding months to something that should be a simple change.
- Three of the most interesting buildings in Elmwood are already landmarked - Stover, Mercantile, and Strand.
- The idea that a 7-11 and parking lot should be part of a historical district, and furthermore marked as contributing, is unbelievable. Why not preserve every Pizza Hut as distinctive architecture while we're at it?

This proposal strains credulity, and if accepted will reflect poorly on us, the residents of Berkeley, and the governance of the city itself, all while it moves to destroy through neglect the things it claims to preserve.

Thanks,

Zachary Russ
Berkeley Resident

6/3/26, 1:48 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook

Zachary Russ
zachary.n.russ@gmail.com
1622 Berkeley Way, Apt 5
Berkeley, California 94703

6/4/26, 8:44 AM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

From Jeremy Poindexter <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Date Wed 6/3/2026 7:30 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.

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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.

Jeremy Poindexter
jrpoindex@gmail.com
240 Monte Vista Ave
Oakland, California 94611

Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission ,

80 people have signed a petition on Action Network telling you to Tell Berkeley not to landmark the entire Elmwood.

Here is the petition they signed:

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, and a 7-Eleven are pretty obviously not structures worthy of landmarking. 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.

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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.

You can view each petition signer and the comments they left you below.

Thank you,

East Bay YIMBY

-
-
1. **Sarah Bell** (*ZIP code: 94402*)
 2. **William Baab** (*ZIP code: 94612*)
 3. **Jennifer Shriber** (*ZIP code: 94610*)
 4. **Michelle Soltis** (*ZIP code: 94703*)

5. **Matthew Bacinskas** (ZIP code: 94708)

6. **John Espinoza** (ZIP code: 94704)
PARKING LOTS ARE NOT HISTORIC

7. **Lloyd Affholter** (ZIP code: 94103)

8. **Kim Walton** (ZIP code: 94703)

9. **Colter Wood** (ZIP code: 94618)

10. **Michael Orians** (ZIP code: 94605)
YIMBY 7-11

11. **Cesar Garcia** (ZIP code: 94702)
Elmwood doesn't need more redlining, local zoning control, and impediments to growth and economic mobility.

12. **tanya johnson** (ZIP code: 94607)

13. **Erin Reiche** (ZIP code: 94708)
It's not a landmark. Julia Morgan designed homes? Those are landmarks. A 711 is not. Don't be silly.

14. **Lori Pottinger** (ZIP code: 94707)

15. **Sara Toruno-Conley** (ZIP code: 94804)

16. **Kevin Zelaya** (ZIP code: 90019)

17. **Gregg Garfinkle** (ZIP code: 94708)

18. **Erika Lee** (ZIP code: 94710)

19. **Oliver Parker** (ZIP code: 94709)

20. **MohammadAli Chavoshi** (ZIP code: 94612)
we need more housing, cities are not museums

21. **Alexandra Singer** (ZIP code: 94708)

22. **Nick Lonstrup** (ZIP code: 94703)

23. **Nicholas Knezek** (ZIP code: 94117)

We need housing - please don't landmark Elmwood I would love dense mixed use housing there!
Near BART, amenities, and the Berkeley hills.

24. Daniel Lutsker (ZIP code: 94702)

25. Yasamin Hatefi (ZIP code: 94602)

26. Maggie Dawes (ZIP code: 94949)

27. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94703)

Racism and classism are alive and well in Berkeley. Can't risk changing the neighborhood character and assuring only the right people live there.

28. David Alonzo (ZIP code: 94702)

I love this 7/11

29. Matt Guevara (ZIP code: 94705)

30. Elaine Magree (ZIP code: 94703)

31. Christina Galvin (ZIP code: 94710)

32. Jeremy Estey (ZIP code: 94608)

33. Zoë Conley (ZIP code: 94702)

34. Daniel Rodriguez (ZIP code: 94704)

35. Luke Wagner (ZIP code: 94709)

36. Kate McGlashan (ZIP code: 94702)

37. Sonia Mahir (ZIP code: 94703)

38. Kian Farzaneh (ZIP code: 94703)

I'd like to afford to live in the town I was raised.

39. M Albarán (ZIP code: 94708)

40. Sherry Carrera (ZIP code: 94704)

41. Duong V (ZIP code: 94612)

42. Jordan Lindsey (ZIP code: 94607)
Berkeley needs housing!

43. Ani Mukerji (ZIP code: 94707)

44. Luke Watts (ZIP code: 94606)

45. Jordan Power (ZIP code: 94710)

46. Azal Laal (ZIP code: 94709)

47. Jay Sharma (ZIP code: 94705)

48. Anthony Talevich (ZIP code: 94044)
This is not right, we need more housing! 7 eleven can find a new location.

49. Anish Tilak (ZIP code: 94609)

50. Daniel Stewart (ZIP code: 94610)
NIMBYs should not use historical designations to protect parking lots and 7/11 buildings.

51. Juliana Lamm-Perez (ZIP code: 94112)

52. Aaron Soffer (ZIP code: 94709)

53. James Mahady (ZIP code: 94702)

54. Graham Bric (ZIP code: 94609)

55. Jeremy Lowe (ZIP code: 94703)

56. Johnny Esteban (ZIP code: 94705)

57. Sofia Taylor (ZIP code: 94705)

58. Susan Fawcett (ZIP code: 94704)

59. Angela Coppola (ZIP code: Berkeley, CA 94704)

60. Tucker Holstun (ZIP code: 94704)

61. Tora Spigner (ZIP code: 94710)
A 7-11? Historical!!! That is preposterous. Let housing be built in that area.

62. Zachary Russ (*ZIP code: 94703*)

63. Ellie Su (*ZIP code: 94702*)

64. Levi Davis (*ZIP code: 94710*)

65. Leigh Ambrose (*ZIP code: 94704*)

66. Danielle Kempf (*ZIP code: 94704*)

Berkeley needs to build up. Berkeley talks a progressive game but architecture reveals its characteristic reality. In order to live up to the ideals Berkeley espouses, the city needs to develop with an eye for inclusivity and affordability.

67. Christina Valli (*ZIP code: 94703*)

I approve of more AFFORDABLE HOUSING not luxury apartments where maybe 1 or 2 units are affordable or worse when the developers just pay a fine so they don't have to supply any affordable housing. I am a Berkeley native and have applied to so many affordable housing units. One newly built building had near Ashby bart had 67 units available and 10,000 applicants. We need more 100% AFFORDABLE housing buildings built. Yes even on college ave

68. Bradley Pultz (*ZIP code: 94612*)

69. Samir Patel (*ZIP code: 94704*)

70. Jackson Lester (*ZIP code: 94704*)

We need more housing around Elmwood!!

71. Julia Norton (*ZIP code: 94704*)

72. Vincent Chen (*ZIP code: 94704*)

73. Dawn Howard (*ZIP code: 94708*)

74. Zane Ort (*ZIP code: 94704*)

75. Tobin kaestner (*ZIP code: 94122*)

76. Evan Aubrey (*ZIP code: 94704*)

77. Stephen Hawn (*ZIP code: 94703*)

Please do not make a parking lot a historical landmark

78. Gregory Carl (*ZIP code: 94112*)

The past is represented in the present, keep it open

From: ["Gary Miguel" <garymm@garymm.org>](mailto:garymm@garymm.org)
To: LPC@berkeleyca.gov
Date: 6/3/2026 1:24:04 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,

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Gary Miguel
garymm@garymm.org
3037 Ellis Street
Berkeley, California 94703

6/4/26, 8:45 AM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Please reject the application to landmark all of Elmwood

From Rowyn McDonald <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Date Wed 6/3/2026 9:55 PM
To Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

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N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

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Rowyn McDonald
rowynm@gmail.com
1024 TALBOT AVE
ALBANY, California 94706

6/4/26, 8:44 AM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



In support of Elmwood Historic District designation

From Helen Marcus <hmmarcus@sbcglobal.net>

Date Wed 6/3/2026 9:08 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.

Attn Allison Riemer and the LPC staff and Commission,
Last month I attended the May meeting of the Landmark Preservation Commission. I was gratified that the LPC staff presented an affirmative approach to making College Avenue between Webster and Russell as part of a newly designated Elmwood Commercial Historic District (with some minor modifications.) Regrettably not enough members of the Commission agreed with the staff conclusion.

I hope that in the days since then, the staff has more forcefully presented its defense of the historic designation and swayed several members to approve it.

Will there be an additional presentation from staff at the June 4 meeting supporting its designation as a Historic District? I certainly hope so.

As a resident of the Elmwood area, I make it a point to purchase items from local stores. Those stores suffered through covid and are slowly returning to profitability. The City coffers benefit from the sales taxes earned by these stores and restaurants. The Elmwood remains a charming place to shop, see a movie and dine. By designating it a Historic District, the area will continue to attract consumers from out of the area as well as locals who do not want to shop on Amazon. The designation is supported by many College Avenue property owners (17 properties were cited as in favor of the designation at the last meeting I believe). During public comment in May, no property owners spoke out against the designation.

I urge the Landmark Preservation Commission to designate the area as a Historic District to provide the protection to this unique local and non-local serving area with the attributes that many others have written to LPC about and spoken about at the last meeting.

Regards,
Helen M. Marcus
Magnolia Street

6/3/26, 12:56 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Designate the Elmwood Shopping Area a Historic District/ Letter for June 4 LPC Hearing

From Deborah Kropp <travelbydeborah2@gmail.com>
Date Wed 6/3/2026 12:31 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.

Landmarks Preservation Commission
Land Use Planning Division
Allison Riemer

Dear LPC Commissioners,

The delightful Elmwood small business shopping district is one of Berkeley's treasures, created on narrow College Avenue within a neighborhood adorned by period Craftsman, Victorian and Colonial Revival homes. The historic charm and old town feel of the shopping area provides an ambiance that not only attracts its neighbors, but also others from across town and beyond. Unique shops and cafes reflect chapters of Berkeley's history not only architecturally, but in theme and content.

This simply distinctive and architecturally noteworthy shopping district well deserves to be considered a Historic District.

Please listen to the people you serve and identify with them, seeing the pride they share of their quaint neighborhood shopping area. Identify with neighbors and Berkeley citizens who want historic charm and small town ambiance preserved.

Please listen to the Elmwood community who want it preserved to maintain their neighborhood character and save a part of our Berkeley cultural heritage. Please listen to small business owners who have thrived in this setting.

Please vote to designate the Elmwood Shopping District a Historic District.

Sincerely,

Berkeley Resident
Deborah Kropp

1231 Bonita Avenue

6/4/26, 8:45 AM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Outlook

Agenda Item 7d Please support designation of the Elmwood Commercial Historic District

From Catherine Jurca <cathjurca@gmail.com>

Date Wed 6/3/2026 9:50 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.

Dear Commissioners:

I urge you to vote in support of designation of the Elmwood Commercial Historic District, which is rightly celebrated for its architectural significance as a rare intact grouping of early twentieth-century commercial buildings.

In reading the comment letters, I was struck by the degree to which many people misunderstand what a historic district is and does. It does not freeze properties in time and prohibit or discourage all development; rather, historic district designation requires what good city planning should always aspire to: context-sensitive projects that respect the urban design principles, and in this case the historic character, of the district. There are volumes of guidance on how such development can be accomplished, precisely because it is to be expected that many properties within historic districts, even contributors, will change over time.

I urge you to give the most careful consideration to Isaac Warshauer's thoughtful letter dated May 27, 2026. It seems to me that he addresses many of the objections, including the misconception that the Safeway and post office are included within the district boundaries. It seems that the proposed district has been conceived to not simply allow but to encourage larger-scale development while helping to preserve what is most unique about this extraordinary slice of Berkeley. And his nuanced account of the district's relation to racist single-family zoning seems spot on to me.

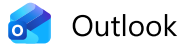
I urge you to recognize the obvious architectural historic merit of the Elmwood commercial corridor and support designation.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Best wishes,
Catherine Jurca

6/3/26, 12:58 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

From Norma Guzman <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Date Wed 6/3/2026 8:57 AM

To Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

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6/3/26, 12:58 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook

N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

I live on the west side and it's loud over here with the train. The east side needs to step up and build more homes too for all the locals at risk of displacement and the many people who work all over this town.

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" (subjective as heck) buildings like the Mercantile Trust Company (why is this company special? Have you read up on its history towards its employees in recent times?) 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.

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Norma Guzman
normaguz@gmail.com
1080 JONES ST APT 106
Berkeley, California 94710

From: ["Shay Elkin" <shay@elkin.io>](mailto:shay@elkin.io)
To: LPC@berkeleyca.gov
Date: 6/3/2026 4:52:00 PM
Subject: Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

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N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

Dear Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

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

I own a home a short walking distance from the area the plan applies to, and frequent and appreciate the businesses in the neighborhood, as well as its buildings and streetscapes.

But the current application is overly broad, and isn't preservation effort as it is an exclusionary act to prohibit the upzoning necessary housing that is severely needed in Berkeley.

A parking lot and a strip mall do not justify a district wide landmarking designation. It would be better to more precisely identify specific historically interesting buildings in the neighborhood, like the Mercantile Trust Company Building.

A narrower and more tailored process would be more credible to the community and to state housing regulators, and would show that the goal is to thoughtfully engage with Elmwood's history while allowing the neighborhood to evolve and not to keep people from living in Berkeley.

The Commission should also be careful not to preserve the legacy of exclusionary zoning. The application's repeated grounding in the bigoted 1916 zoning ordinance, is not something we should be embracing, but reject as the error that it was, and is.

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, and the need for housing and diverse residents in Berkeley, not keep it for only those who are lucky enough to afford the current extremely high housing prices that such overreaching plans create.

Shay Elkin
shay@elkin.io
2919 Lorina St
Berkeley, California 94705

6/4/26, 8:35 AM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

From Jaleh Doane <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Date Wed 6/3/2026 4:22 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.

Jaleh Doane
jalehdoane@gmail.com
2753 ASHBY PLACE
BERKELEY, California 94705

6/3/26, 12:58 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

From Sophie Devaney <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Date Wed 6/3/2026 10:32 AM
To Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

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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.

I am an Elmwood resident and there are other Elmwood residents who want the neighborhood they love to be more affordable and accessible. Please don't let the louder residents who put lots of resources into fighting this drown us out.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Sophie Devaney

Sophie Devaney
sophdev630@gmail.com

6/3/26, 12:58 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook

2753 Ashby Place
Berkeley , California 94705

From: ["Sarah J. Bell" <bell.sarah@gmail.com>](mailto:bell.sarah@gmail.com)
To: lpc@berkeleyca.gov
Date: 6/3/2026 7:01:40 PM
Subject: Re: Petition not to landmark the entire Elmwood

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Correction: Signed by 78 people.

On Wed, Jun 3, 2026, 12:00 PM Sarah J. Bell <bell.sarah@gmail.com> wrote:

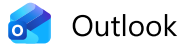
Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission,

I sent this via Action Network, but I'm sending it separately as well to ensure that you receive our petition signed by 80 people to reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood.

Regards,
Sarah Bell

6/3/26, 12:53 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

From Nina Ichikawa <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Date Tue 6/2/2026 7:58 PM

To Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

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6/3/26, 12:53 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. I grew up in Berkeley and the 7-11 on College Avenue is a fine thing to say goodbye to, especially if it is replaced by appropriately-sized housing that can welcome many more neighbors to the area. Please reject the unnecessary freak-outs about new housing that it will be "80 stories tall" or some such hyperventilation.

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.

Nina Ichikawa
ninaneen@gmail.com
1340 Peralta Avenue b
Berkeley, California 94702

6/3/26, 12:56 PM

Inbox - Fu, Boshi - Outlook



Please reject the application to landmark the entire Elmwood

From Daniel Brown <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Date Tue 6/2/2026 8:42 PM
To Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>

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N/A Landmark Preservation Committee N/A,

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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 Brown
dan.brown5@gmail.com
190 The Uplands
Berkeley, California 94705-2832