

8-Aug-2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am reaching out with deep concern regarding my childhood home located at 1224 Harper Avenue in Redondo Beach, which is currently being considered for historical site designation. While I understand and value the importance of preserving truly historic properties, I believe such a designation for this home would be unwarranted and would cause real and lasting harm to my family.

This home, while special to us, has undergone many renovations over the years, none of which were ever subject to restrictions or indications of historical significance in past permitting. No person of notable historical or cultural importance has ever lived there. It is, in truth, a family home not a landmark.

My father, John A. Drake, owned this home for many years before his recent passing. It has now been transferred to his four children, me included, as part of our inheritance. I am at retirement age, facing ongoing health challenges, and currently unemployed after an unexpected downturn in my career field. This inheritance was meant to provide me with financial stability during a difficult and uncertain chapter of my life. If the property is given a historic designation, it will significantly restrict how it can be used or improved and will greatly diminish its market value. For me, this is not just about property rights it is about my ability to support myself and maintain a sense of security for my future.

I respectfully ask the city council to carefully consider the human impact of this decision, and to find that a historic designation for 1224 Harper Avenue is not justified. Such a label would not honor history it would place an undue burden on a grieving family and jeopardize the well-being of those who depended on this inheritance. Thank you for your time, understanding, and compassion in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joe Drake', with a stylized, cursive script.

Joseph Drake