

Reform Recommendations:

1. *Increase specificity in requirements for a historical designation:*
 - a. Examine increasing the historical requirement from the current 45-year threshold to something more historically appropriate.
 - b. Revise “good example” of architectural style to “unique and excellent example” in the Historic Resources Regulations and Guidelines.
 - c. Require that a property must meet two criteria to be designated. This ensures that the property is worthy of designation and designation is appropriate.
 - d. If two criteria are not required, eliminate or clarify Criterion A—the “catch all” wildcard category of designation.
2. *Reinstate previous policies removed by the Preservation Ordinance Review Committee:*
 - a. Provide HRB members with annual property rights training.
 - b. Allow appeal on the same grounds as City-wide project appeals: factual error, conflict with other city-wide goals, findings not supported, new information, and city-wide significance.
3. *Clarifications to the Municipal Code:*
 - a. Clearly state in the Municipal Code options for expedited review of minor alterations made to existing historic resources.
 - b. Remove discussion of potentially historic designations from HRB Board if staff is recommending against designation.
 - c. Make HRB meetings more efficient. Bifurcate DSD referrals and voluntary designations into two separate meetings for each to be heard separately once per month.
4. *Procedural Improvements and Staff Empowerment*
 - a. Staff to provide full justification for designation at time of staff recommendation, as opposed to current procedure of providing full justification 10 days prior to hearing.
 - b. Automatic second opinion from Supervisorial level staff if assigned staff member disagrees with conclusions of expert report.
 - c. Clear entire areas from historic significance during the community plan update process.
 - d. Exempt tract housing developments.
 - e. Allow upgrades under City of San Diego’s Quieter Homes Program by right
 - f. Allow energy efficient window upgrades by right