



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer, Planning and Development Services, Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution designating the Mead-Keyser residence as a City Landmark and placing said property on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places – October 13, 2015
DATE: September 21, 2015

SUMMARY:

This memorandum provides background information on a request for council resolution to place the following property on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places:

- Mead-Keyser Residence (2702 N Puget Sound Avenue)

On August 26, 2015, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to recommend inclusion of the above properties on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, based upon written and oral comments received and the eligibility criteria listed in Tacoma Municipal Code 13.07.040.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.

By designating this property as a City Landmark, the City is promoting the preservation of our civic identity and encouraging sustainable development through the reuse of existing structures.

BACKGROUND:

The Mead-Keyser Residence is a unique property that is recommended for designation as a City Landmark as an example of a Colonial Revival Bungalow. It is one of the earliest houses and one of the only examples of its style in its immediate neighborhood. In addition, it contains a large collection of locally significant architectural elements that have been salvaged from local historic buildings and sensitively incorporated into the house and yard, including elements from Fire Station #6, Visitation Villa, the Bonneville Hotel, Hotel Brooklyn, and others.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission considered this nomination at its meeting of July 9, 2015, and held a Public Hearing on August 26, 2015.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the building is not added to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, future changes to the structure that negatively alter architectural character, including demolition, could take place without the discretionary review of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, provided that all land use and building code requirements were met.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff concurs with the recommendation of the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the above property as a City Landmark, which will help to preserve this important structure for future generations.