



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria

District Three

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: April 12, 2016

Contact: Adrian Granda, 619-847-8338

Councilmember Todd Gloria Leads Effort to Preserve Truax House

Council Authorization Necessary for Purchase, Historic Review Required

SAN DIEGO, CA (April 12, 2016) – City Councilmember Todd Gloria today sought successfully to require a historic review as a condition of sale for a City-owned property known as the Brad Truax House and directed the purchase be brought to City Council for final approval. The City Council approved Councilmember Gloria's proposal to insure the house's historic context is appropriately analyzed by any buyer, and that plans for the property maintain consistency with community goals.

"Today, I proposed action to give the Council final say on any proposal for the Truax House," said Councilmember Gloria. **"I strongly believe that if the City relinquishes ownership of the property, the legacy of Brad Truax and the work done in that building can be preserved."**

The sale of the Truax House was part of a recommendation to sell the properties at 2513/2515 Union Street and 540 West Laurel Street in the Bankers Hill neighborhood. The building was named after San Diego LGBT leader Doctor A. Brad Truax, and was used as a hospice to serve AIDS patients. Dr. Truax died of the disease in 1988. Over the years, the building's condition has deteriorated and repair costs are estimated at over \$1.8 million.

Councilmember Gloria directed staff to return for authorization before finalizing the sale so that the Council and public can review proposals for the site. As a condition of sale, the City Council also approved a requirement for a historic research report be done within 12 months from the close of escrow.

The properties are valued at \$2.47 million. Although revenue from the sale is restricted due to the funding source used to initially acquire the parcels, Councilmember Gloria advocated that related funding be considered to serve the surrounding community.

"The Council's action today opens up a path for this long vacant property to become a community asset again rather than a blight, while giving the community and Council oversight for the future of the properties. It is critical that revenue generated by the sale be directed towards a proportionate public benefit for park development or other neighborhood enhancements."

Real Estate Assets staff will move forward to identify buyers for the property and will return to the City Council to authorize the sale.

###