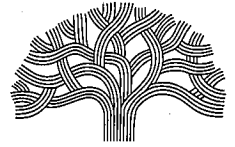


# CITY OF OAKLAND



DALZIEL BUILDING • 250 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, SUITE 3315 • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612-2032

Department of Planning, Building and Neighborhood Preservation  
Planning & Zoning Services Division

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August 16, 2012

Jean Quan, Mayor  
City of Oakland  
Oakland City Hall  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza  
Oakland, CA 94612

Deanna J. Santana  
City Administrator  
Oakland City Hall  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza  
Oakland, CA 94612

Howard A. Jordan  
Chief of Police  
City of Oakland  
Police Administration Building  
455 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Organizers and participants at  
the Oakland Free Library (Miller Library)  
1449 Miller Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94601

Dear Oakland Leaders and Library Organizers and Participants:

At the City of Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) meeting on August 13, 2012, the Board received reports from the public that activists had entered the City of Oakland Landmark, Carnegie Library at 1449 Miller Avenue, in order to reuse the library which had been vacant for some time. We understand this situation has been rectified and the Landmarks Board thanks all of you for the quick, cooperative and peaceful handling of this situation.

The LPAB's primary responsibility is to encourage the protection of Oakland's historic properties that merit official recognition. The City's regulations require a duty to keep in good repair and to maintain Landmarks to prevent their deterioration and decay.

The Miller Library (also known as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Branch building) has both local and national significance. One of six Oakland Carnegie libraries, it was designated as a City of Oakland Landmark by the City Council in 1980. It is an anchor building in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Commercial potential local historic district. It is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Built between 1917 and 1918, the Miller Library was designed by architects Dickey & Donovan in the Spanish Colonial style. These architects were associated with three of the six Oakland Carnegie libraries. Dickey is a prominent architect in Oakland's history, including major significant historic Oakland buildings, such as the Claremont Hotel and University High School.

The Miller Library and other historic properties set Oakland apart from most California cities. The preservation, enhancement and protection of these historic properties are vital to the health of Oakland's economy, its image, and its quality of life. Our historic resources deserve special consideration and care, especially when they are vacant.

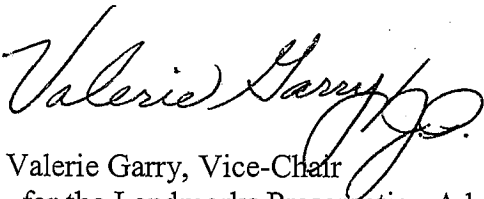
We encourage the City and Oakland Police Department to continue to protect our precious historic resources from vandalism and physical deterioration. Even protective actions, however well-intentioned, such as securing a building or removing graffiti, can result in damage to historic building materials. One of the ten Secretary of the Interior's Standards cautions against this, stating,

*'Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used.'*

The Landmarks Board respectfully requests that that the City and police secure this property, as well as any other vacant historic Oakland buildings, in order to prevent unauthorized entry, theft, or property damage, as is directed by the City's General Plan, Historic Preservation Element policy. We also encourage the City to return vacant City-owned historic properties to service.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns about the fate of our historic resources, and for the work you do to the benefit of all Oakland residents.

Respectfully,



Valerie Garry, Vice-Chair  
for the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board

cc: City Council Members  
Planning Commissioners  
Karen Boyd, Office of the City Administrator  
State Historic Preservation Officer