

April 12, 2017

Elio Palacios, Jr.  
Chair  
Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board  
3580 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside 92501

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 6, RMM BOARD HARADA HOUSE PROJECT COMMITTEE

Dear Elio:

Thank you and the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board's leadership to save the Harada House, a designated Riverside Historic Landmark and a National Historic Landmark on Lemon Street in Riverside. The Harada House is important in that it is tangibly associated with a historically significant (albeit negative) event during World War II, and the notable Riverside residents who contributed to the overthrow of the Alien Land Law of 1913.

Like other Japanese-Americans, the entire Harada family was sent to an internment camp during the xenophobic hysteria of World War II. The parents did not survive the internment, but after the war ended, the two Harada children returned to their home on Lemon Street. Sumi Harada wrote *My Mother, March 17, 1943*, a poignant elegy to her late mother, "I can see you at the old Eighth Street Restaurant. I can remember at Eighth Street restaurant. I can remember you at Ninth Street, and there at the Lemon Street House."

I request that the City of Riverside and we citizens remember the house on Lemon Street.

A future Harada House Museum would serve as a historical record, a reminder that, as you stated in an Op-Ed in The Press-Enterprise, "More than ever we must stand up for and save for future generations the inanimate witnesses to history, like the Harada House, so that they may forever pronounce hope for a better future." I fully support the allocation of City resources to establish and maintain a Harada House Museum.

Best Regards,

Frances J. Vasquez