



Roll Call Number

25-1559

Agenda Item Number

41

Date November 17, 2025

RESOLUTION HOLDING HEARING AND APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF THE W.W. WITMER HOUSE LOCATED AT 2900 GRAND AVE., AS A LOCAL LANDMARK, NAMED "W.W. WITMER HOUSE"

WHEREAS, John M. Beard, owner of the property located at 2900 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa ("Property"), has made application to designate the Property as a Local Landmark named "W.W. Witmer House"; and

WHEREAS, the Property is legally described as follows:

THE NORTH 240 FEET OF LOT 1 IN LANGAN PLACE, AN OFFICIAL PLAT,
NOW INCLUDED IN AND FORMING A PART OF THE CITY OF DES
MOINES, POLK COUNTY, IOWA.

WHEREAS, the application contains detailed references and explanation regarding the historical nature of the building located at 2900 Grand Avenue; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2025, the Historic Preservation Commission voted 5-0-2 to recommend that the "W.W. Witmer House" be designated a Local Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the City Plan and Zoning Commission has advised that at a public hearing held on October 16, 2025, its members voted 9-0 in support of a motion to recommend **APPROVAL** of the application from the John M. Beard to designate the "W.W. Witmer House" located at 2900 Grand Ave. as a Local Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Municipal Code Section 58-60 requires a public hearing be held before the City Council to consider this application.

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2025, by Roll Call No. 25-1480, it was duly resolved by the City Council that the request for Local Landmark Designation be set down for hearing on November 17, 2025, at 5:00p.m., to be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, due notice of the hearing as published in the Des Moines Register on November 5, 2025, as provided by law, setting forth the time and place for hearing on said proposed Local Landmark Designation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as follows:



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1. The public hearing on the application is hereby closed.
2. The W.W. Witmer House meets the requirements of the Des Moines Municipal Code section 58-58 to be designated as a local landmark because the Property located at 2900 Grand Avenue:
 - Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture;
 - Is associated with events that made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history;
 - Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values.
3. The city Council accepts the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission and the Plan and Zoning Commission and grants the application to have the "W.W. Witmer House" designated as a local landmark.
4. The City Clerk is directed to file the designation and description of the "W.W. Witmer House" with the Development Services Department and record this resolution as the designation and description of "W.W. Witmer House" in the office of the Polk County Recorder.

MOVED BY Mandelbaum TO ADOPT

SECOND BY Voss

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Emily A. Duffy

Emily A. Duffy

Assistant City Attorney

CAHP-2025-000048

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
BOESEN	✓			
SIMONSON	✓			
VOSS	✓			
COLEMAN	✓			
WESTERGAARD	✓			
MANDELBAUM	✓			
GATTO	✓			
TOTAL	7			

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

CERTIFICATE

I, LAURA BAUMGARTNER, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Connie Boesen

Mayor

Laura Baumgartner

City Clerk