




CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 6, 2021
To: Historic Site Preservation Board
From: Ken Lyon, RA, Associate Planner, Historic Preservation Officer 
Subject: **500 S. Indian Canyon Drive – The Security First National Bank (aka Union Bank)**

At its meeting of June 1, 2021, the board voted to amend its work plan for FY 20/21 to include the subject property.

Staff requests the board to direct staff to initiate the processing of the application.

RECOMMENDATION: Direct staff to initiate processing the application for possible historic designation of the Security First National Bank (aka "Union Bank") located at 500 South Indian Canyon Drive, including setting up site visits for the Board to the site and scheduling a public hearing of the Board to consider the application.

From: [Jeff Pieper](#)
To: [Ken Lyon](#)
Subject: RE: 500 S Indian Canyon Drive to HSPB on July 6, 2021
Date: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 2:41:20 PM

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Ken,
Can you please forward this to the correct people.
Thank you
Jeff

Dear Historic Site Preservation Board,

We are writing this letter because, collectively, as an ownership group, we strongly oppose our property being classified as a historic property. There are many horror stories about government intervention in the attempt to deem properties historic and this is one of those cases. Many of these tales are of good policies gone bad, of well-intentioned people following their passion for cultural preservation who are reaching farther than socially acceptable or necessary. In reviewing the report that was presented by a third party to the Historic Site Preservation Board, we are extremely perplexed by the inconsistencies presented therein, but more so, by the fact that no one at the City has attempted to check for accuracy. The Historic Site Preservation Board has the responsibility to do their own independent report to evaluate, not only the relevant significance, if any, but also what solutions could be proposed short of classifying the entire building historic. It is not right that this opinion, by a third-party, who has no investment in our property, is dictating what we can do with our property. We have worked extremely hard our entire lives to be able to buy this property and rely on the income that it generates for our retirement. This will not only have an impact on the existing income and opportunities for the next tenant, should Union Bank vacate, but also has major implications on the value of the property. We would ask that you slow the process down and give us an opportunity to participate in these discussions. After all, it is our building and we deserve the opportunity to be heard. One of the owners, who is an immigrant from Vietnam, is extremely upset over this type of government intervention as he has personally witnessed it growing up in Vietnam. It reminds him of the old country, which he left behind, where the government would expropriated property from its citizens. Thank you for your consideration and we hope that the Historic Site Preservation Board will make the right decision.

The Nguyen Family

The Pieper Family

The Chelf Family