

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION

During World War II suspicion of Americans of Japanese ancestry on the west coast, coupled with long held prejudices and discriminatory practices in California in particular, led citizens' organizations such as the Native Sons of the Golden West to mount a media campaign to encourage the federal government to rid the state of "enemy aliens and non-aliens" alike.


On April 25, 1942 hundreds of Japanese and Japanese Americans living in the Venice community were ordered to report to the corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards for placement on buses headed to temporary assembly centers. Once on the buses, these members of our community were transported by the United States military to temporary assembly centers, such as the Santa Anita Racetrack in Arcadia and the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds in Pomona.

Japanese Americans resided for months at these temporary assembly centers while the War Relocation Authority completed construction of ten internment camps in the interior of the United States.

Given the historic nature of these events, various organizations in the Venice community are proposing that a commemorative marker be installed at the corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards in Council District 11 in order to serve as a constant reminder of the denial of U.S. Constitutional rights to a minority group that simply shared the ethnicity of the nation that attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services, with the assistance of the Planning Department (Office of Historic Resources), the Department of Transportation and the Office of Council District 11 be directed to report with recommendations for the installation of a commemorative marker at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards to commemorate the start of the internment of hundreds of Japanese and Japanese Americans living in the Venice community on April 25, 1942

PRESENTED BY:


BILL ROSENDAHL
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:

