



MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER: Edward Lavalley, City Manager **E-SIGN:**
FROM: Harry Klinkhamer, Historical Resources Manager THROUGH Roger Clark, Planning & Zoning Director
DEPARTMENT: Planning & Zoning
DATE: December 30, 2024 **MEETING DATE:** January 14, 2025

SUBJECT / TOPIC: Update on City Council Directive on Plaque for Blackburn Quarters

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On April 9, 2024, City Council directed staff to bring back a proposal with estimated costs and other pertinent details, such as location, for a plaque naming all 52 families of the Blackburn Quarters who were relocated to the Grove Terrace Housing Authority in the 1970's. Staff have been coordinating with Reverend James Mitchell of the Union Missionary Baptist Church to discuss this project further, collect the names gathered by Reverend Mitchell, and seek out pricing for an appropriate memorial.

After several meetings and conducting additional research, there have been some discrepancies found in the number of families to be listed. The number of families mentioned by Reverend Mitchell was 52; his various lists of names totaled 61 surnames, and an article in the June 11, 1970 *Venice Gondolier* noted that almost all the 32 families from the Blackburn Quarters would be moving to Grove Terrace. At the follow up meeting with Reverend Mitchell on December 20, he suggested the memorial focus on the families that lived in Blackburn Quarters, rather than just those that were moved to Grove Terrace. Initial research by staff revealed more names going back to 1930, at which point Reverend Mitchell suggested he would like to see each individual who lived in the Blackburn Quarters from 1926 to 1970 listed on the plaque. Currently staff has found 359 individuals while still needing to conduct more research.

Reverend Mitchell is amenable to the idea of a civic memorial consisting of a plaque listing all the names mounted on a stone or concrete base. He is also agreeable to placing it on church property, with the possibility of relocating the memorial to a potential future park site. Staff are working to obtain pricing information from several plaque companies. Public Works can be available to assist with the foundation installation for the memorial. Staff hope to have more concrete figures after the holidays and will be continuing the research work necessary to finalize the list of names for the plaque.

SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN: Goal Two: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High

Quality Services

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: Presentation - No Action

Yes	N/A	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance (required if for agenda posting)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City Attorney Reviewed/Approval
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Risk Management Review
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance Department Review/Approval
		Funds Availability (account number):