



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Xavier
Campos

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 26, 2011

APPROVED:

DATE:

9/26/11

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF MCDONNELL HALL AS A HISTORIC LANDMARK

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the adoption of a resolution to direct the Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement to nominate McDonnell Hall at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 2020 San Antonio Road, as a San José Historic Landmark pursuant to Chapter 13.48 of the San José Municipal Code and to set a public hearing on the proposed nomination of a historic landmark.

BACKGROUND

The historical significance of McDonnell Hall is known by all San José community activities and labor leaders. Built in the heart of the East San José community once known as "Sal Si Puedes," McDonnell Hall became an inspirational center for community activist Cesar E. Chavez to organize against social injustice. Originally established by Father Don McDonnell as a parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the McDonnell Hall transformed under his leadership as both a place of worship and activism with its parishioners using basic Catholic doctrine to fight against social injustice.

The opportunity to consider the designation of McDonnell Hall as a San José Historic Landmark will allow the City of San José to formally take action to preserve this iconic site as part our city's history for the generations to enjoy.