



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. IX. Y
3/11/2025

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the Certified Local Governments National Register Nomination Report for Carverdale Historic District, roughly bound by East Park Place, Bellevidere Drive, and Windemere Avenue, which includes an affirmative statement of opinion regarding the District's National Register of Historic Places eligibility for the reasons stated herein, and therefore recommending Carverdale Historic District to the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Review Board and the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Washington DC, as eligible for the National Register. Ward 7.

Location:

East Park Place, Bellevidere Drive, and Windemere Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Purpose:

The City has participated in the Certified Local Governments Program with the Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office since January 1991. As a part of being a Certified Local Government, the City has accepted certain responsibilities including the administration of a Historic Preservation program. One of those responsibilities is to review and make recommendations to the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Review Committee who in turn makes recommendations to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Washington DC, regarding properties within the incorporated area that the City deems eligible for the National Register. The National Register recognizes properties with historic, architectural, archaeological, or cultural integrity as exhibited through characteristics such as location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. National Register recognition is supported by a Statement of Significance based on one or more of four specific criteria, which can be summarized as history, architecture, significant figures, and archeology.

Background:

On February 5, 2025, the Historic Preservation Commission considered a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council, the State Historic Preservation Review Committee and the Keeper of the National Register at their regular meeting. By unanimous vote, the Commission adopted the resolution affirming the recommendation.

The completed National Register nomination documents that Carverdale Historic District is eligible for listing under Criterion "A" as a property that "is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history," and more specifically under "Ethnic Heritage/Black" and "Community Planning and Development." Carverdale was developed

between 1944 and 1947, with over 90% of the homes being purchased by African American veterans using the G.I. Bill. Carverdale functioned as a “city within a city,” with residents opening a variety of businesses and services out of their homes at a time when segregation limited residents’ access to many resources. Carverdale was also an important hub for Oklahoma City’s Civil Rights movement, with organizers living and meeting in the neighborhood to plan advocacy efforts.

This nomination has been prepared by Carverdale residents and forwarded to the City of Oklahoma City by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office for the required reviews; no other objections have been made.

Review:

Planning Department

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.