



October 25, 2021

Mr. David Pugo
President
Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council
2130 E. First Street, Suite 110
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Re: **GENERAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA – OCTOBER 27, 2021**
ITEM # 13.a. – PROPOSED JULIUS LEVITT SQUARE

Dear Mr. Pugo:

Jewish Historical Society of Southern California and Breed Street Shul Project are pleased to submit this joint letter to respectfully request the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council's support for the proposed designation of the square adjacent to the former Vladeck Center (now part of Hollenbeck Police Station) at St. Louis Avenue and First Street as "Julius Levitt Square" by the Los Angeles City Council.

Julius Levitt (1884-1953), a labor activist, journalist and community organizer, was West Coast manager of the *Jewish Daily Forward*. He served as president of the Jewish Labor Committee's Southern California Chapter and as a leader of Workmen's Circle, which were among the groups that met at the Vladeck Center. He also was among the organizers of the local International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and was a builder of coalitions between organized labor, minority and faith groups. In addition, he worked tirelessly to fight against fascism and Nazism.

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Levitt joined with other leaders of the Jewish Community Relations Council to forge a strong bond with the Community Service Organization, the pioneering Mexican American civil rights organization headed by Edward R. Roybal and Fred Ross, one of Levitt's fellow labor organizers. In 1949, Roybal was elected the first Latino member of the City Council in modern times with the backing of this strong multicultural, multifaith progressive-liberal-left-labor coalition.

We wholeheartedly support recognizing Julius Levitt with a square named for him for it would underscore and serve as an inspirational example of the special heritage of Boyle Heights as a neighborhood that brings together diverse residents and communities, strengthens cross-cultural understanding and advances social justice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Sass

President