

Resolution No. 954-2026

By Council Member Polensek

FOR ADOPTION
August 19 2026

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Opposing the proposal from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation that would weaken protections provided by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act by making it easier for the federal government to approve projects affecting historic places without giving local communities a meaningful voice.

WHEREAS, in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), Congress established a comprehensive program to preserve the historical and cultural foundations of the nation as a living part of community life; and

WHEREAS, for nearly sixty years, Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the adverse effects of their actions on historic places, and has given communities a chance to express their opinions before decisions become irreversible; and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2026, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation voted to advance a sweeping rewrite of those regulations which, if adopted, nearly destroy the protections provided in Section 106; and

WHEREAS, if adopted, the proposed changes would allow federal agencies to decide whether to involve the public in decisions about historic places in their community, weaken Tribal consultation, increase conflict, create more litigation, and put historic places, sacred sites, burial grounds and local landmarks at greater risk; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland has numerous landmarks on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Hope Memorial Bridge, Gordon Square Historic District, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, the Cleveland Arcade, the old LaSalle Theatre, East 116th Street & Buckeye Road Historic District, and the Westside Market; and

WHEREAS, the public deserves to be heard about what these and other historic places mean to their community and should be consulted before adverse actions by the federal government create conflict; and

WHEREAS, Section 106 protects the public’s right to be heard before historic places are damaged or destroyed; and

WHEREAS, historic places support tourism, create jobs, attract investment, strengthen main streets and preserve the character of the community making it an attractive place to live and work; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, because historic preservation is an investment; however, once historic places are gone, they are gone forever; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council opposes the proposal from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation that would weaken protections provided by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act by making it easier for the federal government to approve projects affecting historic places without giving local communities a meaningful voice.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to send copies of this resolution to all members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and Kathleen Crowther, President of the Cleveland Restoration Society.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

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REPORT
after second Reading

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READ FIRST TIME
and referred to

REPORTS

READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on AUGUST 19, 2026

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR