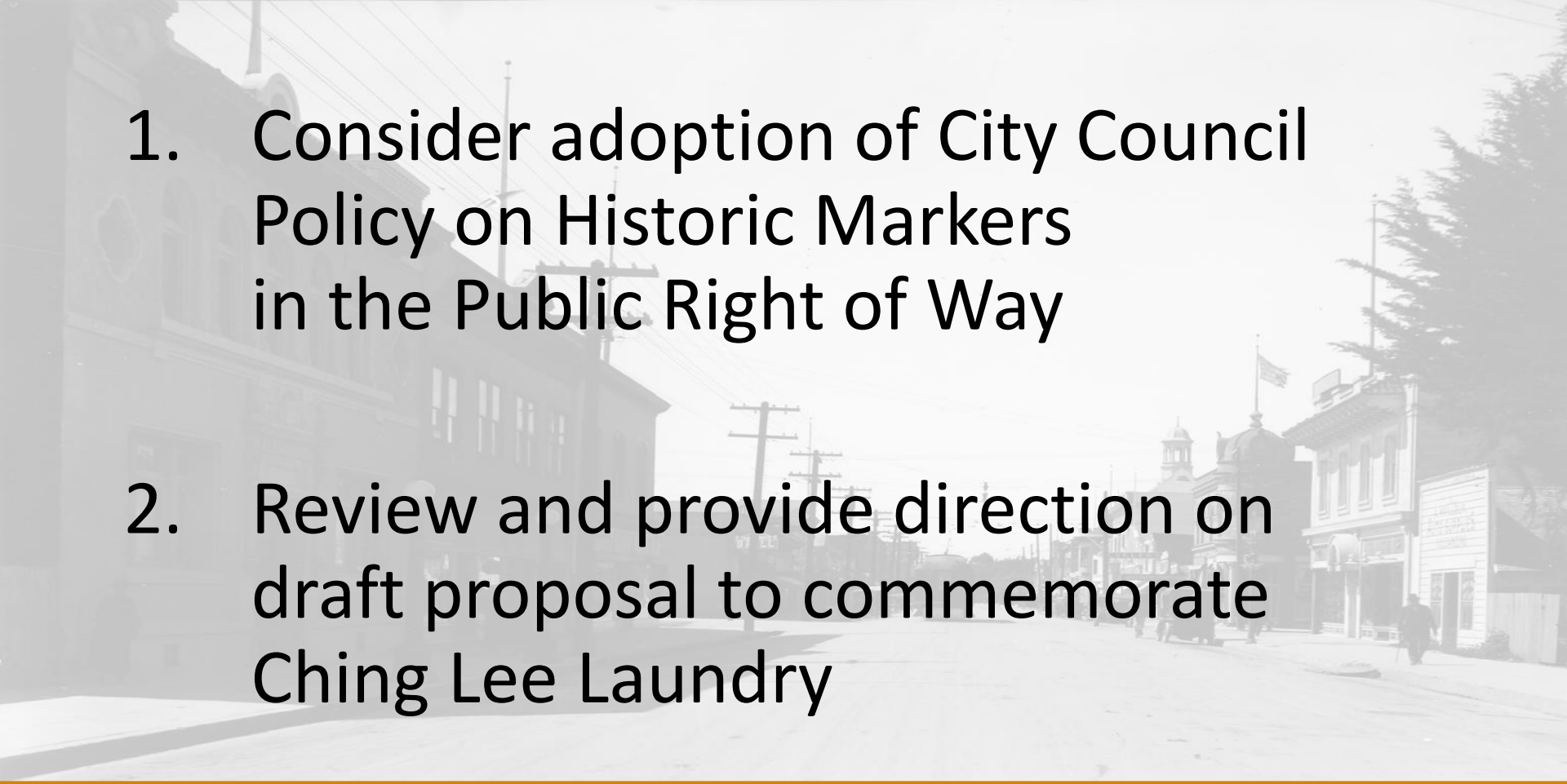




# Historic Markers in the Public Right of Way

March 2, 2020

Samantha Weigel  
Communications Analyst

- 
1. Consider adoption of City Council Policy on Historic Markers in the Public Right of Way
  2. Review and provide direction on draft proposal to commemorate Ching Lee Laundry

# Background

- Staff believe City Council should determine what markers are approved in the public right of way
- Policy proposal covers public right of way such as streets, sidewalks etc. Does not cover markers on private property, parks, buildings etc.

- Evaluation Criteria

1. Historical significance – place of public interest, represents person or individual. *Should recognition of individual be posthumous?*
2. Site not currently marked
3. Within public right of way controlled by City
4. Conforms with ADA standards
5. Funding available – private donations or by Council commitment

- Approval Process

- Council resolution

- Preferred Design

# Preferred Design & Location

- Avoids conflicts with active use of public spaces
- Conforms with ADA standards
- Maintenance

**IN MEMORY OF ALL VIETNAM VETERANS**

*This monument was established to honor the millions of Americans who served in the Vietnam War. The statue depicts the likeness of HMI Thomas A. Parlier, a Huntington native and Navy Corpsman who was killed in action, and whose body was never recovered.*

*Any person who has participated in war has lost a piece of themselves on the battlefield - physical, psychological, emotional, or spiritual. Although this statue is of one man, it represents all our veterans and that which was lost to war.*

*To all who served, and to the families, friends, and country who will always mourn those who were lost, may God grant you peace.*





# Above-Ground





# Above-Ground





# Ching Lee Laundry Proposal

CITY OF SAN MATEO



## Long History

It was an entirely different era when Ching Lee Laundry opened in 1876, a time when Chinese immigrants were excluded from virtually everything. Tens of thousands of Chinese had already migrated to California by that time; the Yee family settled in San Mateo — when the population was just 932, a village, not yet a formal city.

San Mateo's Chinese community probably started in 1870 when Alvinza Hayward hired 150 Chinese laborers to run a water line to his estate. An informal Chinatown began to coalesce around B Street and Second Avenue with a rooming house, restaurant, and at least three wash-houses.




*Albert Yee hand ironing shirts*



*San Mateo - 1888*



1st Av and C Street (Claremont)



*1st Av and C Street (Claremont)*

By 1900 the community had dwindled due to the Chinese exclusion laws. A second Chinese district developed around the Hop Yick Company on First and Claremont (then C Street), interspersed with some Japanese businesses. Most of the merchant immigrants were from Taishan and Huangliang Du. During this period Chinese growers carried cut flowers to San Francisco in reed baskets taking the train or the streetcar line that ran from San Mateo to San Francisco. This Chinatown mostly disappeared before World War II.

The Ching Lee Laundry endured for generations, and was the oldest Chinese laundry in the United States, when it closed. People visited the laundry not only for laundry service, but to exchange news. Similar to a pub, so much life went through the front door, as they befriended the community with the generations of families who patronized the business. This testifies to how far Chinese immigrants have come, overcoming alienation, poverty, segregation, discrimination, and bigotry to become Americans. Perseverance and dedication not just to the business itself but also to the community it has been part of, the laundry shop's name translates to "victory" in Cantonese.





# Historic Marker Policy

(Action by Resolution)

Staff Recommendation: Approve the San Mateo City Council Policy on Historic Markers in the Public Right of Way

Considerations:

- Should individuals be commemorated posthumously?
- Does Council have a preferred prototype/design?
- Should the City take on responsibility of installing and maintaining these markers?



# Ching Lee Laundry Draft Proposal

(Direction only)

- Does Council support a historic marker to commemorate the former site of the Ching Lee Laundry?
- Does Council support the proposed Ching Lee Laundry marker in its current design & location?

# Thank You

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# Thank You

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# Urban Trail Concept

