

For Immediate Release

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Community invited to share input about Father Serra Statue and attend a virtual community discussion

Ventura, Calif. — The public is invited to join the Ventura City Council for a virtual community discussion on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. about the Father Junipero Serra statue, located near City Hall on Poli Street. The special public meeting will include the Ventura Mayor, City Council, and City leadership.

“In recent weeks, the City of Ventura has received a groundswell of feedback from the public on the Father Junipero Serra statue. We want the community to know that we are receptive to their concerns and seek to provide a peaceful environment where all voices are heard and respected,” stated Ventura City Manager Alex D. McIntyre. “This is an historic decision and must involve the voices of the Chumash tribe, the Mission San Buenaventura, residents of Ventura, and the City Council.”

Community members are invited to engage with the City to help determine next steps for the Father Serra statue in a variety of ways.

- Share written responses online by visiting www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/FatherSerra. All written responses will be shared with the City Council.
- Watch and participate in the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) public meeting on **Wednesday, July 1, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.** This meeting will review the landmark status of the 1989 Father Serra Statue located in front of City Hall. The HPC will not discuss if the statue should be retained or removed from its present location. To read the HPC agenda or watch the meeting, visit the [Public Meetings](#) section on the City’s website.
- Watch and participate in the virtual community discussion with the Ventura City Council **on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.** This meeting will cover if the statue should be retained or removed from its present location. Join the virtual meeting by visiting <https://bit.ly/2NvYIRX> or by phone. Call 1(408) 418-9388 and use access code: 126 228 9208.

On June 18, 2020, the City released a joint statement from the Mayor of the City of Ventura, the Barbareño/ Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (Chumash), and the Mission San Buenaventura that conversations were underway regarding how to address expressed concerns about the statue. The Father Junipero Serra statue is currently located near City Hall on Poli Street.

To read the joint letter, [click here: “A peaceful resolution on Father Junipero Serra statue.”](#)

For more meeting information or to share input, visit www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/FatherSerra

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