

Granville M. Semmes III
Owner/Manager of Granville Semmes Construction Co., LLC;
1510 Religious, LLC; 510 Race LLC; Race and Religious, LLC
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Friday, June 5, 2026

City Council of New Orleans
Clerk of Council
clerkofcouncil@nola.gov

City of New Orleans
CBD Historic District Landmarks Commission
Wendy Cargile, Chief Plan Reviewer
wcargile@nola.gov

Re: 1510 Religious St
Reference code: K7B501

Dear Members of City Council and Ms. Cargile:

Please accept this letter as my request to appeal the decision of the HDLC at its meeting Wednesday, June 3, 2026, regarding the denial of retention of the deteriorated masonry and stucco, deteriorated entry gates and inappropriate uplighting fixtures.

The historic home at 1510 Religious Street serves as an integral part of a Wedding & Events venue named Race and Religious. It has been successful for many years providing brides, grooms and their families and guests with the warmth and charm of an 1800's vintage New Orleans setting. Online reviews point to their satisfaction and appreciation of its ability to take them back into time. An important detail of that charm is the "patina" of the delaminated stucco, exposed bricks, flaws in the old iron entry gates, etc. Some reviews cite these very features and I feel that charm would seriously be hindered by modernizing or making it appear new. Instead, it resembles many of the classic and historic structures scattered throughout New Orleans. Additionally, the uplighting provides the façade with a curious, warm glow that invites its guests to be drawn into the depth of character the property possesses.

I sincerely hope you will reconsider and re-evaluate the value of the most notable features of the property. Race and Religious attracts patrons and visitors from all over the world – bringing in additional revenues to nearby hotels, restaurants and attractions.



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Photos Attached





All



All





All