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		LIUCIIY (				C.D. No.
Case No.(s) ZA-2011-3126-ZV-1A		Planning Staff Name(s) ar: Contact N		<u>.</u>	<u>v.v.</u> no.	
		JAE KIM 213-978-1383			8	
Items Appealable to Council:			Last D	ay to Appeal:	Арр	Lealed:
ZONE VARIANCE			APRIL	18, 2012	Yes	
Location of Project (Include project titles,	if any.)		<u>L</u>			<u></u>
10311-10333 S. WESTERN AVENUE						
Name(s), Applicant / Representative, Addr	ess, and P	hone Number.			**************************************	at 2222 and a final state of the
REPRESENTATIVE:LA PRO II PRESERVATION LP,JONATHAN & KRISTEN LONNER,WILLIAM SZYMCZAKBURNS AND BOUCHARD INC.21515 HAWTHORNE BLVD.,11990 SAN VICENTE BLVD., STE. 200STE. 125LOS ANGELES, CA 90049TORRANCE, CA 90503310-802-4261						
Name(s), Appellant / Representative, Addr	ess, and P	hone Number.	an bond goe an	Nation (N-1000) - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000		аналанан на аланан алан алан алан алан
BOBBIE JEAN COLLINS, CATHRYN COLLINS, ELLA KENNEDY AND MR. & MRS. ED WATSON, and Mr. and Mrs. Riley 103 MANHATTAN PL HOA 10328 S. MANHATTAN PLACE LOS ANGELES, CA 90047 323-757-6686				Ţ		
Final Project Description (Description is for consider General Plan Amendment and/or Zone Change case, designation and zone change (i.e. "from Very Low D concurrent zone change from RA-1-K to (T)(Q)R1-1-P those items which are appealable to Council.)	, include the p ensity Reside	rior land use design ntial land use desig	nation and nation to l	l zone, as well as th .ow Density land us	e propos se desigi	sed land use nation and
An appeal in part of the Zoning Administrator's decision, pursuant to Charter Section 562 and Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 12.27 and 12.24,X,22 to approve a Variance from LAMC Section 12.21.1-A,1 to permit a total floor area of two and one tenth times the buildable area of the lot (2.1:1 FAR) in lieu of the maximum one and one-half times the buildable area of the lot in the C2-1VL Zone, and a variance to allow a maximum height of 45 feet, in lieu of the transitional height requirements of LAMC Section 12.21.1-A,10; and the decision to adopt the action of the lead agency in issuing a Notice of Exemption, log reference ENV-2011-3127-CE for a Categorical Exemption, Class 5, Category 10.						
	10			nye ge y y y y y y y y y y y y y y y y y		
Fiscal Impact Statement     Yes     No       'Determination states administrative costs     Yes     No		Environmental No. ENV-2011-3127-CE			<u>Con</u> 3 - 0	mission Vote:
are recovered through fees.	LEINA	~&VIIIJI&/~VC			<u> </u>	Malikitekin Alan Adalaman yan amara ana amara ana ana ana ana ana ana ana ana ana
JAMES K. WILLIAMS, Commission Executive Assist	tant II		<b>.</b>	Date: APR	<u>2 4 20</u>	12
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### 103th ADJACENT MANHATTAN PLACE HOMEOWNERS/STAKEHOLDERS & BLOCK CLUB ACTIVE SIGNED PETITION MEMBERS

April 17, 2012

James K. Williams, Commission Executive Assistant SOUTH LOS ANGELES AREA PLANNING COMMISSION 200 North Spring Street, Room 272 Los Angeles, California 90012-4801 Office: 213.978.1300 www.lacity.org/PLN/index.htm

Jae Kim **DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNER** 200 North Spring Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Los Angeles, California 90012 Office: 2143.978.1318 www.planning.lacity.org

Councilmember, Bernard C. Parks CITY OF LOS ANGELES 200 North Spring Street, Room 460 Los Angeles, California 90012 Office: 213.473.7008 www.bernardparks.com Re: NO NEW ZONE VARIANCE CASE NO.: ZA 2011-3126(ZV) ZONE VARIANCE 10311-33 South Western Avenue South Los Angeles Planning Area Zone: C2-1VL D.M.: 091-5A193 CEQA: ENV-2011-3127-CE Legal Description: Lots 3-7, Tract 7906

Appellant: Mrs. Bobbie-Jean Collins, Cathryn J. Collins, Mrs. Ella Kennedy, Mr/Mrs. Riley and Mr/Mrs. Ed Watson

Applicant: William Szymczak, LA Pro II Preservation LP Representative: Burns & Bouchard Inc. Jonathan & Kristen Lonner

(Cont...)

April 18, 2012

Page -2-

Dear Zoning Administrator's:

# WE hereby file our Second OMPPEAL.

The Applicant never applied for a new zone Variance regarding the *new* floor plans. These are the exact same plans in your letter dated February 6, 2012. Therefore, we the Adjoining Property Owners and HOA oppose the entire project. All communication has been falsified. The People (Homeowners/Stakeholders) will not be arrogantly ignored, nor disrespected.

#### We *DISAPPROVE* of zone Variance Section 12.21.1-A, and area lot in C2-1VL Zone.

None of our demands or concerns have been changed or modified. This massive building is undesirable. Our Property rights and property value will be affected by this Eminent Domain. We have invested in our homes and the developers of this Hud-Housing projects will greatly decrease our property value. YOU WILL NOT COME INTO OUR COMMUNITY AND OVERLOOK US! WE ARE NOT SLAVES SOLD AT AN AUCTION WITH NO VOICE!

We demand a new developer who will develop plans that are accommodating to the adjacent Homeowner's rights to privacy. A 30-unit building that includes more senior citizeds. Underground parking. No balconies. Reduce the height to 35 ft. We want our Improvement Funds to be redirected, plus 25ft. fencing on our property. Also, we want 100 Black males to be included and subcontracted for employment. We also demand that you redirect the \$1,000,000.00 for the homeowners improvements funds, or we will demand **\$3,000.000.00** in improvements funds to be set aside, because you continue to violate our rights as land owners. We are being misrepresented with bribes and false documents day-to-day. Also, we demand that 1% of future revenue be implemented and granted to benefit the Homeowners and block club yearly.

Additionally, we dislike how you continue to falsify with political lies  $\underline{vs}$ . legal law. No one has been trustworthy from the very beginning of the process.

We remain,

THE MANHATTANS!

Master Appeal Form	
City of Los Angeles – Department of City Planning	ORIGINAL
APPEAL TO THE: SOUTH LOS ANGELES AREA PLANNING COMMISSIO (DIRECTOR, AREA PLANNING COMMISSION, CITY PLANNING CO	
REGARDING CASE #: ZA-2011-3126-ZV-1A: ENV-2011-3127-CE	
PROJECT ADDRESS: 10311-33 SOUTH WESTERN AVENUE	
FINAL DATE TO APPEAL: APRIL 18, 2012	
<ul> <li>TYPE OF APPEAL:</li> <li>1. Appeal by Applicant</li> <li>2. Appeal by a person, other than the applicar</li> <li>3. Appeal by applicant or aggrieved person from of Building and Safety</li> </ul>	
APPELLANT INFORMATION – Please print clearly	
Name: Mrs. Bobbie-Jean Collins, Cathryn Collins, Ella Kennedy , Mr.& Mrs. Ed Watson, 10	3 Manhattan PI Signed HOA , Mr + Mrs. Riley
<ul> <li>Are you filing for yourself or on behalf of another party, organizat</li> <li>Self</li> <li>Other: HOMEOWNERS/STAKEHOLDERS 10</li> </ul>	
Address: 10328 SOUTH MANHATTAN PLACE	<u>}</u>
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA Zip: 90047	
Telephone: (323) 757-6686 E-mail: cathrynjcollins@yahoo	o.com
<ul> <li>Are you filing to support the original applicant's position?</li> <li>Yes I No</li> </ul>	
REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION	
Name: THE COLLINS', THE KENNEDY'S, and THE WATSONS' and M	P3. Rilly
Address: 10328 South Manhattan Place	<i>v</i>
Los Angeles, California Zip: 90047	
Telephone: 323-757-6686 E-mail: cathrynjcollins@yahoo	o.com

This application is to be used for any appeals authorized by the Los Angeles Municipal Code for discretionary actions administered by the Department of City Planning.

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#### JUSTIFICATION/REASON FOR APPEALING - Please provide on separate sheet.

Are you appealing the entire decision or parts of it?

🗹 Entire 🔲 Part

Your justification/reason must state:

	The reasons for the appeal		How you are aggrieved by the decision
--	----------------------------	--	---------------------------------------

Specifically the points at issue
Why you believe the decision-maker erred or abused their discretion

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/REQUIREMENTS

- Eight (8) copies of the following documents are required (1 original and 7 duplicates):
  - Master Appeal Form
  - Justification/Reason for Appealing document
  - Original Determination Letter
- Original applicants must provide the original receipt required to calculate 85% filing fee.
- Original applicants must pay mailing fees to BTC and submit copy of receipt.
- Applicants filing per 12.26 K "Appeals from Building Department Determinations" are considered original applicants and must provide notice per 12.26 K 7.
- Appeals to the City Council from a determination on a Tentative Tract (TT or VTT) by the City (Area) Planning Commission must be filed within 10 days of the <u>written determination</u> of the Commission.
- A CEQA document can only be appealed if a non-elected decision-making body (i.e. ZA, APC, CPC, etc...) makes a determination for a project that is not further appealable.

"If a nonelected decision-making body of a local lead agency certifies an environmental impact report, approves a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration, or determines that a project is not subject to this division, that certification, approval, or determination may be appealed to the agency's elected decision-making body, if any." ---CA Public Resources Code § 21151 (c)

I certify that the statements contained in this application are complete and true:

Appellant Signature:

Date:

#### Planning Staff Use Only

Amount \$105.02	Reviewed and Accepted by	Date 4-18-12
Receipt No. 6730	Deemed Complete by	Date



Determination Authority Notified

Original Receipt and BTC Receipt (if original applicant)

pert. 3.30. 12



SOUTH LOS ANGELES AREA PLANNING COMMISSION

200 N. Spring Street, Room 272, Los Angeles, California, 90012-4801, (213) 978-1300//mwww.lacity.org/PLN/index.htm

Determination mailing date: MAR 2 9 2012

Case No. ZA-2011-3126-ZV-1A CEQA: ENV-2011-3127-CE Location: 10311-10333 S. Western Avenue Council District: 8 – Parks Plan Area: South Los Angeles Zone: C2-1VL D.M.: 091-5A193 Legal Description: Lots 3-7, Tract 7906

 Applicant:
 LA Pro II Preservation LP, William Szymczak

 Representative:
 Burns and Bouchard Inc., Jonathan & Kristen Lonner

 Appellant:
 Bobbie\_Jean, Cathryn Collins, Linda Riley & Ella Kennedy, 103<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan Place HOA

At its meeting on March 23, 2012, the following action was taken by the South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission:

- 1. Denied the appeal.
- 2. Sustained the Zoning Administrator's decision, pursuant to Charter Section 562 and Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 12.27 and 12.24,X,22 to approve a Variance from LAMC Section 12.21.1-A,1 to permit a total floor area of two and one tenth times the buildable area of the lot (2.1:1 FAR) in lieu of the maximum one and one-half times the buildable area of the lot in the C2-1VL Zone, and a variance to allow a maximum height of 45 feet, in lieu of the transitional height requirements of LAMC Section 12.21.1-A,10.
- 3. Adopted the Categorical Exemption No. ENV-2011-3127-CE.

Fiscal Impact Statement: There is no General Fund Impact as administrative costs are recovered through fees.

This action was taken by the following vote:

Motion: Mitchell Seconded: Franklin Ayes: Aquino Absent: Mills, Silcott Vote: 3-0

James K. Williams, Commission Executive Assistant II South Los/Angeles Area Planning Commission

Effective Date / Appeals: The City Planning Commission's determination regarding the Zone Variance request is appealable to the City Council if approved. Any aggrieved party may file an appeal within <u>20-days</u> after the mailing date of this determination letter. Any appeal not filed within the 20-day period shall not be considered by the City Council. All appeals shall be filed on forms provided at the Planning Department's Public Counters at 201 N. Figueroa Street, Fourth Floor, Los Angeles, or at 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 251, Van Nuys.

FINAL APPEAL DATE: APR 18 2012

If you seek judicial review of any decision of the City pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5, the petition for writ of mandate pursuant to that section must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which the City's decision became final pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6. There may be other time limits which also affect your ability to seek judicial review.

Attachments: Zoning Administrator's determination dated February 6, 2012 Zoning Administrator: Jae Kim LINN K. WYATT CHIEF ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING MICHAEL J. LOGRANDE

DIRECTON

<u>SSOCIATE ZONING ADMINISTRATORS</u> R. NICOLAS BROWN SUE CHANG LOURDES GREEN FERNANCO TOVAR MAYA E. ZAITZEVSKY CALIFORNIA



OFFICE OF ZONING ADMINISTRATION 200 N. SPRING STREET, 7<sup>th</sup> FLOOR Los Ancases, CA 90012 (213) 978-1318 FAX: 12131 978-1334 www.planning.lacity.org

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA MAYOR

February 6, 2012

William Szymczak (A) LA Pro II Preservation LP 21515 Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 125 Torrance, CA 90503

Los Angeles Properties Apts. II, LP (O-1) 224 South Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006

Allison Anderson (O-2) 2845 South Harcourt Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90016

Jonathan Lonner (R) Burns & Bouchard, Inc. 11990 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 200 CASE NO. ZA 2011-3126(ZV) ZONE VARIANCE 10311-33 South Western Avenue South Los Angeles Planning Area Zone : C2-1VL D. M. : 091-5A193 C. D. : 8 CEQA : ENV-2011-3127-CE Legal Description: Lots 3-7, Tract 7906

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11990 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 200 Los Angeles, CA 90049

Pursuant to Charter Section 562 and Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sections 12.27 and 12.24-X,22, I hereby <u>APPROVE</u>:

a variance from Section LAMC 12.21.1-A,1 to permit a total floor area of two-andone-tenth times the buildable area of the lot (2.1:1 FAR) in lieu of the maximum oneand-one-half times the buildable area of the lot in the C2-1VL Zone, and

a variance to allow a maximum height of 45 feet, in lieu of the transitional height requirements of LAMC Section 12.21.1,A-10,

upon the following additional terms and conditions:

- 1. All other use, height and area regulations of the Municipal Code and all other applicable government/regulatory agencies shall be strictly complied with in the development and use of the property, except as such regulations are herein specifically varied or required.
- 2. The use and development of the property shall be in substantial conformance with the plot plan submitted with the application and marked Exhibits "A", except as may be revised as a result of this action.

#### CASE NO. ZA 2011-3126(ZV)

- 3. The authorized use shall be conducted at all times with due regard for the character of the surrounding district, and the right is reserved to the Zoning Administrator to impose additional corrective Conditions, if, in the Administrator's opinion, such Conditions are proven necessary for the protection of persons in the neighborhood or occupants of adjacent property.
- 4. All graffiti on the site shall be removed or painted over to match the color of the surface to which it is applied within 24 hours of its occurrence.
- 5. A copy of the first page of this grant and all Conditions and/or any subsequent appeal of this grant and its resultant Conditions and/or letters of clarification shall be printed on the building plans submitted to the Public Offices of the Department of City Planning and the Department of Building and Safety for purposes of having a building permit issued.
- 6. Indemnification. The applicant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, its agents, officers, or employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the City or its agents, officers, or employees to attack, set aside, void or annul this approval which action is brought within the applicable limitation period. The City shall promptly notify the applicant of any claim, action, or proceeding and the City shall cooperate fully in the defense. If the City fails to promptly notify the applicant of any claim action or proceeding, or if the City fails to cooperate fully in the defense, the applicant shall not thereafter be responsible to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the City.
- 7. The authorization shall be for the construction, use and maintenance of an apartment building not to exceed 2.1:1 Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for a total floor area of 52,126 square feet, consisting of 63 residential units.
- 8. The maximum height of the building shall not exceed 45 feet.
- 9. A consistent use of architectural and building materials shall be applied throughout all exterior facades of the building to avoid creating a "backside" to the site. The proposed project shall not use architectural finishes that would produce substantial glare.
- 10. Prior to the issuance of any building permits, detailed development site and elevation plans including a landscape and irrigation plan by a licensed landscape architect or architect shall be submitted for review and approval by the Department of City Planning for verification of compliance with the imposed conditions.
- 11. <u>Prior to the clearance of any conditions</u>, the applicant shall show proof that all fees have been paid to the Department of City Planning, Expedited Processing Section.
- 12. Prior to issuance of any permits relative to this matter, a covenant acknowledging and agreeing to comply with all the terms and conditions established herein shall be recorded in the County Recorder's Office. The agreement (standard master covenant and agreement for CP-6770) shall run with the land and shall be binding on any subsequent owners, heirs or assigns. This agreement with the conditions attached must be submitted to the Department of City Planning for approval before being

recorded. After recordation, a <u>certified</u> copy bearing the Recorder's number and date shall be provided to the Department of City Planning for attachment to the subject case file.

#### OBSERVANCE OF CONDITIONS - TIME LIMIT - LAPSE OF PRIVILEGES - TIME EXTENSION

All terms and Conditions of the approval shall be fulfilled <u>before</u> the use may be established. The instant authorization is further conditional upon the privileges being utilized within two years after the effective date of approval and, if such privileges are not utilized or substantial physical construction work is not begun within said time and carried on diligently to completion, the authorization shall terminate and become void. A Zoning Administrator may extend the termination date for one additional period not to exceed one year, prior to the termination date of the period, if a written request on appropriate forms, accompanied by the applicable fee is filed therefore with a public Office of the Department of City Planning setting forth the reasons for said request and a Zoning Administrator determines that good and reasonable cause exists therefore.

#### TRANSFERABILITY

This authorization runs with the land. In the event the property is to be sold, leased, rented or occupied by any person or corporation other than yourself, it is incumbent upon you to advise them regarding the conditions of this grant.

#### VIOLATIONS OF THESE CONDITIONS, A MISDEMEANOR

Section 12.29 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code provides:

"A variance, conditional use, adjustment, public benefit or other quasi-judicial approval, or any conditional approval granted by the Director, pursuant to the authority of this chapter shall become effective upon utilization of any portion of the privilege, and the owner and applicant shall immediately comply with its Conditions. The violation of any valid Condition imposed by the Director, Zoning Administrator, Area Planning Commission, City Planning Commission or City Council in connection with the granting of any action taken pursuant to the authority of this chapter shall constitute a violation of this chapter and shall be subject to the same penalties as any other violation of this Code."

Every violation of this determination is punishable as a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

#### APPEAL PERIOD - EFFECTIVE DATE

The applicant's attention is called to the fact that this grant is not a permit or license and that any permits and licenses required by law must be obtained from the proper public agency. Furthermore, if any Condition of this grant is violated or if the same be not complied with, then the applicant or his successor in interest may be prosecuted for

violating these Conditions the same as for any violation of the requirements contained in the Municipal Code. The Zoning Administrator's determination in this matter will become effective after February 21, 2012, unless an appeal there from is filed with the <u>City</u> <u>Planning Department</u>. It is strongly advised that appeals be filed <u>early</u> during the appeal period and in person so that imperfections/incompleteness may be corrected before the appeal period expires. Any appeal must be filed on the prescribed forms, accompanied by the required fee, a copy of the Zoning Administrator's action, and received and receipted at a public office of the Department of City Planning <u>on or before</u> the above date or the appeal will not be accepted. Forms are also available on-line at <u>http://planning.lacity.org/</u> Public offices are located at:

Figueroa Plaza	Marvin Braude San Fernando	
201 North Figueroa Street,	Valley Constituent Service Center	
4th Floor	6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Room 251	
Los Angeles, CA 90012	Van Nuys, CA 91401	
(213) 482-7077	(818) 374-5050	

If you seek judicial review of any decision of the City pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5, the petition for writ of mandate pursuant to that section must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which the City's decision became final pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6. There may be other time limits, which also affect your ability to seek judicial review.

#### <u>NOTICE</u>

The applicant is further advised that all subsequent contact with this office regarding this determination must be with the Zoning Administrator who acted on the case. This would include clarification, verification of condition compliance and plans or building permit applications, etc., and shall be accomplished <u>BY APPOINTMENT ONLY</u>, in order to assure that you receive service with a minimum amount of waiting. You should advise any consultant representing you of this requirement as well.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

After thorough consideration of the statements contained in the application and the plans submitted therewith, all of which are by reference made a part hereof, as well as knowledge of the property and surrounding district, I find as follows:

#### BACKGROUND

The applicant proposes to construct a new 55,059 square-foot (52,126 square feet of floor area), 4-story affordable housing complex comprised of 63 rental units with 63 on-site parking spaces. The proposed building comprises of a parking garage at the ground level and three levels of above-ground residential units. The primary pedestrian entrance is located along the street front abutting Western Avenue while vehicular access takes place off the alley in the "rear" of the property. The height of the building is proposed at approximately 44 feet to the top of the parapet.

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The proposed project is an affordable apartment building financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), "9% Tax Credits" through the State of California, and the Los Angeles Housing Department. This project is a component of a larger multi-site, portfolio-awarded subsidy by the aforementioned agencies. On the subject site, 24 existing affordable units will be demolished and 63 affordable units rebuilt in their place. On the other three "subsidy" sites, a total of 60 affordable units will be rehabilitated in order to preserve existing "At-Risk" Section 8 housing. As a part of this funding process, HUD has agreed to transfer a portion of the existing Section 8 contract to the subject 63unit structure. HUD and the Housing Authority have approved the permanent relocation plan for the existing 24 households.

The subject site is a level, rectangular-shaped lot consisting of five contiguous parcels consisting of 27,698 gross square feet in the C2-1VL Zone and designated as General Commercial land use in the South Los Angeles Community Plan area. The project site is located on the west side of Western Avenue mid-block between 103<sup>rd</sup> and 104<sup>th</sup> Streets. The site is also located within the Central City Revitalization Zone.

The subject site is currently developed with six, 4-unit apartment structures (24 total units) constructed in 1943, and in deteriorating condition. The site also includes one vacant commercial building with three empty store fronts. These uses will be demolished in order to construct a project that includes 63 1-bedroom affordable apartments. The property to the north is developed with an auto repair use in the C2 Zone. Properties to the east, across Western Avenue, are variably developed with an auto repair use, a duplex and small retail uses in the C2 zone. The property is developed with a 2-story apartment building in the C2 Zone. Properties to the east, across the alley, are developed with single-family homes in the R1 Zone.

Previous Cases, Affidavits, Permits, and Orders On the Applicant's Property:

There are no relevant cases.

Previous Cases, Affidavits, Permits, and Orders On Surrounding Properties:

<u>Case No. ZA 2010-0680(ZAA)</u> – On March 15, 2011, the Zoning Administrator approved in part and denied in part yard adjustments for the expansion of a single-family home.

Western Avenue is a Major Highway Class II dedicated to a 100-foot width at the project's street frontage.

<u>An alley</u> is dedicated to a 20-foot width at the project's street frontage.

#### ZONE VARIANCE FINDINGS

In order for a variance from the zoning regulations to be granted, all five of the legally mandated findings delineated in Section 12.27 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code must be made in the affirmative. Following (highlighted) is a delineation of the findings and the application of the relevant facts of the case to same:

1. The strict application of the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the zoning regulations.

#### Floor Area Ratio

The applicant proposes to construct a new 55,059 square-foot (52,126 square feet of floor area), 4-story affordable housing complex comprised of 63 rental units on a site consisting of 27,698 gross square feet (24,954 square feet of buildable lot area) in the C2-1VL Zone. This would result in a floor area ratio of approximately 2.1:1 FAR (52,126 / 24,954), which exceeds the permitted total floor area of a maximum 1.5:1 FAR. The Zoning Code restricts the total floor area of a building(s) on a lot in a commercial zone in Height District No. 1 to not exceed one-and-one-half times the buildable area of the lot, or 1.5:1 FAR, regardless of whether the use is commercial or residential. On the other hand, the Code allows a total floor area of a building(s) on a lot in a less intensive R4 Zone in the same Height District No. 1 up to three times the buildable area of the lot, or 3:1 FAR. A C2-1VL Zone, which allows for more intensive commercial uses, also allows uses permitted on a R4-1VL Zone as a matter of right. In other words, if the site was zoned R4, the proposed affordable apartment project would have been allowed without any special entitlements. However, in this particular case, the floor area provisions of a site zoned C2, which is intended for the purpose of tempering the massing of a commercial use, would restrict a residential building that would otherwise be allowed by-right on a lot zoned R4, a less intensive zone. The variance consideration in the Code is to allow the Zoning Administrator flexibility in approving projects that would result in practical difficulties inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the floor area regulations. The proposed affordable housing project meets the intent of the Code in allowing multi-residential uses at less than 3:1 FAR. Further, careful design and architectural treatments have been incorporated to enhance a deteriorating, underutilized site.

#### Transitional Height

The subject site is designated a Height District No. 1VL, which permits the height of buildings to a maximum of 45 feet. The height of the proposed apartment building is approximately 44 feet to the top of the parapet, which would be in compliance with the requirements of the Zoning Code. However, the Code restricts the height of a building on a commercially zoned lot of a maximum of 25 feet when located within a distance of 49 feet to a lot zoned for single-family homes. The project site is zoned C2-1VL and is located adjacent to a lot zoned R1 to the west. Thus, the proposed project is subject to the height limit of 25 feet. If, however, the site was zoned for multi-family residential uses, such as less intensive R4-1VL, then the height of the proposed apartment building would be fully in compliance with the height regulations. There are countless instances throughout the City where single-family zoned lots are purposefully positioned adjacent to multi-family zoned lots to create a buffer away from more intense, major commercial corridors. This creates a natural progression, or "transition", of less intensive uses to more intensive uses. In fact, it is proper planning practice to arrange single-family homes next to multi-family

residential buildings and thereby away from commercial uses. The approval of this variance will allow the redevelopment of a blighted site in favor of attractive, affordable, new housing. The proposed affordable multi-family development serves as an appropriate transition between the single-family residences to the west and the relatively busy commercial uses and traffic along Western Avenue to the east.

As such, the strict application of the Code would create unnecessary hardships for the proposed affordable residential building inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the floor area and transitional height provisions.

# 2. There are special circumstances applicable to the subject property such as size, shape, topography, location or surroundings that do not apply generally to other property in the same zone and vicinity.

The subject site is a level, rectangular-shaped lot consisting of five contiguous parcels comprised of 27,698 gross square feet in the C2-1VL Zone and designated as General Commercial land use in the South Los Angeles Community Plan area. The project site is located on the west side of Western Avenue mid-block between 103rd and 104th Streets. The subject site is currently developed with six smaller apartment buildings built in 1943, in deteriorating condition. The site also includes one vacant commercial building with three empty store fronts. These uses will be demolished in order to construct a project that includes 63 one-bedroom affordable rental units. The property to the north is developed with an auto repair use in the C2 Zone. Properties to the east, across Western Avenue, are variably developed with an auto repair use, a duplex and small retail uses in the C2 zone. The property to the south is developed with a two-story apartment building also in the C2 Zone. Properties to the east, across the alley, are developed with single-family homes in the R1 Zone. Nearby blocks to the north and south on Western Avenue contain a mixture of commercial, residential and public uses with building heights varying between 15 and 45 feet.

As mentioned above, the subject site is zoned C2-1VL, which allows for more intensive commercial uses with a maximum of 1.5:1 FAR, whereas a site zoned R4-1VL allows less intensive residential uses but with a higher 3:1 FAR. Special circumstances exist due to the fact that an apartment project is being proposed at 2.1:1 FAR in a commercial zone. If the site was zoned R4, for instance, the proposed affordable apartment project would have been allowed as a matter of right. No special entitlements would be required. There has been a relatively recent recognition by the City for the need to allow residential uses (and mixed uses) at 3:1 FAR along commercial corridors, resulting in the creation of RAS3 and RAS4 Zones. The proposed apartment project is also subject to the transitional height requirements because the site is commercially zoned. The intent of the transitional height requirements is to buffer single-family homes away from the more intensive uses and traffic impacts of commercial corridors. The proposed project is a multi-family residential use with affordable units. Again, if the site were zoned for multi-family residential uses, such as R4-1VL, then the height of the proposed apartment building would be fully in compliance with the height regulations.

#### CASE NO. ZA 2011-3126(ZV)

In both instances, inherent conflicts exist between policies encouraging the production of affordable housing and the provisions of the Code that were created to help buffer single-family housing from adjacent commercial buildings. The approval this variance would allow an apartment building, which would otherwise be permitted by-right on a multi-family residential zone, on a commercial zone. The current market forces and social trend are pushing commercial corridors to evolve into mixed-use centers as a viable option for permanent residence and providing an opportunity for the area to be developed into an urban community. In-fill developments of residential and mixed-use buildings have become part of traditional major commercial thoroughfares to provide much-needed housing options.

3. Such variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use generally possessed by other property in the same zone and vicinity but which, because of such special circumstances and practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships, is denied the property in question.

The project site is located in a C2-1VL Zone along Western Ave. This portion of Western Avenue forms a transitional commercial corridor, and the immediate surrounding properties comprise of commercial, including auto repair uses, and multi-family uses. The proposed project is proposing an attractive and efficiently designed residential development that is consistent with the General Commercial designation which permits residential properties that comply with R4 zoning standards. The project provides 63 parking spaces for 63 rental units, consistent with Parking Option One of the City's affordable housing incentives.

The design of the proposed development comprises of a parking garage at the ground level and three levels of above-ground residential units. The primary pedestrian entrance is located along the street front abutting Western Avenue to activate the sidewalk, while vehicular access takes place off the alley in the "rear" of the property with minimal circulation impacts. The height of the building is proposed at approximately 44 feet to the top of the parapet, substantially in conformance with Height District No. 1VL of 45 feet and consistent with a mixture of commercial, residential and public uses of building heights varying between 15 and 45 feet along nearby blocks to the north and south on Western Avenue. The approval of this variance would allow the community to enjoy the benefits of a well-designed, new housing project providing affordable rates, which would otherwise not be allowed.

4. The granting of such variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the same zone or vicinity in which the property is located.

The granting of such variances will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare, in that the site is located along Western Avenue, a transitional, mostlycommercial in nature with some multi-family uses in the South Los Angeles Community Plan area. The housing project will increase activity along the sidewalk as well as providing well-placed lighting to create a safer neighborhood. The brightcolored, affordable housing complex will enhance a site that is in deteriorating condition. Further, the project will have minimal impacts on the surrounding neighborhood as the single-family lots to the west are separated by a 20-foot wide alley. The distance from the proposed apartment building to the closest single-family home (excluding non-habitable garages) is approximately 100 feet.

The proposed project is an affordable apartment building, financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), "9% Tax Credits" through the State of California, and the Los Angeles Housing Department. This project is a component of a larger multi-site, portfolio-awarded subsidy by the aforementioned agencies. On the subject site, 24 existing affordable units will be demolished and 63 affordable units rebuilt in their place. On the other three "subsidy" sites, a total of 60 affordable units will be rehabilitated in order to preserve existing "At-Risk" Section 8 housing. As a part of this funding process, HUD has agreed to transfer a portion of the existing Section 8 contract to the subject 63-unit structure. HUD and the Housing Authority have approved the permanent relocation plan for the existing 24 households.

Additionally, the Applicant has garnered the support of the Council Office and Mayor's Office for this project. The much-needed affordable housing project will not be materially detrimental to the general welfare, but in fact, provide benefits to the community.

# 5. The granting of the variance will not adversely affect any element of the General Plan.

The South Los Angeles Community Plan map designates the property for General Commercial land use with a corresponding zone of C1.5, C2, C4, RAS3, and RAS4. The General Commercial designation permits residential properties that comply with R4 zoning standards. The proposed development of 63 affordable residential rental units is allowable under the current adopted zone and the land use designation. The site is located in a developed urban area along Western Avenue, a Major Highway Class II, which is predominantly characterized by a variety of commercial, some multi-family residential and light industrial uses. It is served by several transit lines, including Metro bus lines 207, 305 and 757. The apartment project will provide much needed affordable housing units for the South Los Angeles Community Plan area, meeting several of the plan's objectives for residential development.

- Objective 1-1: To provide for the preservation of existing housing and for the development of new housing to meet the diverse economic and physical needs of the existing residents and projected population of the Plan area to the year 2010.
- Objective 1-2: To locate new housing in a manner which reduces vehicular trips and makes it accessible to services and facilities.
- Objective 1-3: To preserve and enhance the varied and distinct residential character and integrity of existing single- and multi-family neighborhoods.

CASE NO. ZA 2011-3126(ZV)

Objective 1-5: To promote and ensure the provision of adequate housing for all persons regardless of income, age, or ethnic background.

#### ADDITIONAL MANDATORY FINDINGS

- 12. The National Flood Insurance Program rate maps, which are a part of the Flood Hazard Management Specific Plan adopted by the City Council by Ordinance No. 172,081, have been reviewed and it has been determined that the property is located in Zone C, areas of minimal flooding.
- 13. On January 18, 2012, the project was issued a Notice of Exemption, log reference ENV-2011-3127-CE, for a Categorical Exemption, Class 5, Category 10. Thereby adopt that action.

I concur with the report prepared by Jae Kim, Planning Staff for the Office of Zoning Administration, on this application and approve same.

Jae Kim **City Planner** (213) 978-1383

LINN K. WYATT Chief Zoning Administrator Direct Telephone Number (213) 978-1318

LW:JK:jja

cc: Councilmember Bernard Parks, Eighth District Adjoining Property Owners



# WESTERN APARTMENTS

10311 SO. WESTERN AVENUE, LOS ANGELES

FRESERVATION PARTNERS DEVELOPMENT III, LLC 21515 HAWTHORNE BLVD. SUITE 225 TORRANCE, CA 50803



ZA 2011 3126

PRESERVATION PARTNERS DEVELORMENT & LLC 2655 HAWTHORKE BLVD. SLITE 25. TOPPANCE, CA 80503

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PRESERVATION PARTNERS DEVELOPMENT & LLC 2655 Hawthorae BLVD Sute 25 Torrande CA 80503

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ZA 2011 3126

# WESTERN APARTMENTS

10311 60. WESTERN AVENUE, LOS ANGELES

FOR PRESERVATION PARTNERS DEVELOPMENT III, LLC 216/6 HAWTHORNE BLVD. SUITE 125 TORRANCE, CA 80803





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EXHIBIT "A" Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Case No. \_\_\_\_\_



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Planning. Lacity.org DNNL forms Appeal Form CP-7769



### **SOUTH LOS ANGELES AREA PLANNING COMMISSION**

200 N. Spring Street, Room 272, Los Angeles, California, 90012-4801, (213) 978-1300 www.lacity.org/PLN/index.htm

## Determination mailing date: MAR 2.9 2012

Case No. ZA-2011-3126-ZV-1A CEQA: ENV-2011-3127-CE Location: 10311-10333 S. Western Avenue Council District: 8 – Parks Plan Area: South Los Angeles Zone: C2-1VL D.M.: 091-5A193 Legal Description: Lots 3-7, Tract 7906

Applicant: LA Pro II Preservation LP, William Szymczak
 Representative: Burns and Bouchard Inc., Jonathan & Kristen Lonner
 Appellant: Bobbie Jean, Cathryn Collins, Linda Riley & Ella Kennedy, 103<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan Place HOA

At its meeting on March 23, 2012, the following action was taken by the South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission:

- 1. Denied the appeal.
- 2. Sustained the Zoning Administrator's decision, pursuant to Charter Section 562 and Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 12.27 and 12.24,X,22 to approve a Variance from LAMC Section 12.21.1-A,1 to permit a total floor area of two and one tenth times the buildable area of the lot (2.1:1 FAR) in lieu of the maximum one and one-half times the buildable area of the lot in the C2-1VL Zone, and a variance to allow a maximum height of 45 feet, in lieu of the transitional height requirements of LAMC Section 12.21.1-A,10.
- 3. Adopted the Categorical Exemption No. ENV-2011-3127-CE.

Fiscal Impact Statement: There is no General Fund Impact as administrative costs are recovered through fees.

This action was taken by the following vote:

Motion:	Mitchell
Seconded:	Franklin
Ayes:	Aquino
Absent:	Mills, Silcott
Vote:	3-0
A	NE

James K. Williams, Commission Executive Assistant II South Los/Angeles Area Planning Commission

<u>Effective Date / Appeals</u>: The City Planning Commission's determination regarding the *Zone Variance* request is appealable to the City Council if approved. Any aggrieved party may file an appeal within <u>20-days</u> after the mailing date of this determination letter. Any appeal not filed within the 20-day period shall not be considered by the City Council. All appeals shall be filed on forms provided at the Planning Department's Public Counters at 201 N. Figueroa Street, Fourth Floor, Los Angeles, or at 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 251, Van Nuys.

FINAL APPEAL DATE: APR 18 2012

If you seek judicial review of any decision of the City pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5, the petition for writ of mandate pursuant to that section must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which the City's decision became final pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6. There may be other time limits which also affect your ability to seek judicial review.

Attachments: Zoning Administrator's determination dated February 6, 2012 Zoning Administrator: Jae Kim

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LINN K. WYATT CHIEF ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

ASSOCIATE ZONING ADMINISTRATORS

R. NICOLAS BROWN SUE CHANG LOURDES GREEN FERNANDO TOVAR MAYA E, ZAITZEVSKY

### CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



DEPARTMENT OF **CITY PLANNING** 

MICHAEL J. LOGRANDE

OFFICE OF ZONING ADMINISTRATION 200 N. SPRING STREET, 7" FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 (213) 978-1318 FAX: (213) 978-1334 www.planning.lacity.org

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA MAYOR

February 6, 2012

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William Szymczak (A) LA Pro II Preservation LP 21515 Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 125 Torrance, CA 90503

Los Angeles Properties Apts. II, LP (O-1) 224 South Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006

Allison Anderson (O-2) 2845 South Harcourt Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90016

Jonathan Lonner (R) Burns & Bouchard, Inc. CASE NO. ZA 2011-3126(ZV) ZONE VARIANCE 10311-33 South Western Avenue South Los Angeles Planning Area : C2-1VL Zone D. M. : 091-5A193 C. D. : 8 CEQA : ENV-2011-3127-CE Legal Description: Lots 3-7, Tract 7906

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11990 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 200 Los Angeles, CA 90049

Pursuant to Charter Section 562 and Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sections 12.27 and 12.24-X,22, I hereby APPROVE:

a variance from Section LAMC 12.21.1-A,1 to permit a total floor area of two-andone-tenth times the buildable area of the lot (2.1:1 FAR) in lieu of the maximum oneand-one-half times the buildable area of the lot in the C2-1VL Zone, and

a variance to allow a maximum height of 45 feet, in lieu of the transitional height requirements of LAMC Section 12.21.1,A-10,

upon the following additional terms and conditions:

- 1. All other use, height and area regulations of the Municipal Code and all other applicable government/regulatory agencies shall be strictly complied with in the development and use of the property, except as such regulations are herein specifically varied or required.
- 2. The use and development of the property shall be in substantial conformance with the plot plan submitted with the application and marked Exhibits "A", except as may be revised as a result of this action.



#### CASE NO. ZA 2011-3126(ZV)

- 3. The authorized use shall be conducted at all times with due regard for the character of the surrounding district, and the right is reserved to the Zoning Administrator to impose additional corrective Conditions, if, in the Administrator's opinion, such Conditions are proven necessary for the protection of persons in the neighborhood or occupants of adjacent property.
- 4. All graffiti on the site shall be removed or painted over to match the color of the surface to which it is applied within 24 hours of its occurrence.
- 5. A copy of the first page of this grant and all Conditions and/or any subsequent appeal of this grant and its resultant Conditions and/or letters of clarification shall be printed on the building plans submitted to the Public Offices of the Department of City Planning and the Department of Building and Safety for purposes of having a building permit issued.
- 6. Indemnification. The applicant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, its agents, officers, or employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the City or its agents, officers, or employees to attack, set aside, void or annul this approval which action is brought within the applicable limitation period. The City shall promptly notify the applicant of any claim, action, or proceeding and the City shall cooperate fully in the defense. If the City fails to promptly notify the applicant of any claim action or proceeding, or if the City fails to cooperate fully in the defense, the applicant shall not thereafter be responsible to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the City.
- 7. The authorization shall be for the construction, use and maintenance of an apartment building not to exceed 2.1.1 Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for a total floor area of 52,126 square feet, consisting of 63 residential units.
- 8. The maximum height of the building shall not exceed 45 feet.
- 9. A consistent use of architectural and building materials shall be applied throughout all exterior facades of the building to avoid creating a "backside" to the site. The proposed project shall not use architectural finishes that would produce substantial glare.
- 10. Prior to the issuance of any building permits, detailed development site and elevation plans including a landscape and irrigation plan by a licensed landscape architect or architect shall be submitted for review and approval by the Department of City Planning for verification of compliance with the imposed conditions.

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- 11. <u>Prior to the clearance of any conditions</u>, the applicant shall show proof that all fees have been paid to the Department of City Planning, Expedited Processing Section.
- 12. Prior to issuance of any permits relative to this matter, a covenant acknowledging and agreeing to comply with all the terms and conditions established herein shall be recorded in the County Recorder's Office. The agreement (standard master covenant and agreement for CP-6770) shall run with the land and shall be binding on any subsequent owners, heirs or assigns. This agreement with the conditions attached must be submitted to the Department of City Planning for approval before being

recorded. After recordation, a <u>certified</u> copy bearing the Recorder's number and date shall be provided to the Department of City Planning for attachment to the subject case file.

#### OBSERVANCE OF CONDITIONS - TIME LIMIT - LAPSE OF PRIVILEGES - TIME EXTENSION

All terms and Conditions of the approval shall be fulfilled <u>before</u> the use may be established. The instant authorization is further conditional upon the privileges being utilized within two years after the effective date of approval and, if such privileges are not utilized or substantial physical construction work is not begun within said time and carried on diligently to completion, the authorization shall terminate and become vold. A Zoning Administrator may extend the termination date for one additional period not to exceed one year, prior to the termination date of the period, if a written request on appropriate forms, accompanied by the applicable fee is filed therefore with a public Office of the Department of City Planning setting forth the reasons for said request and a Zoning Administrator determines that good and reasonable cause exists therefore.

#### **TRANSFERABILITY**

This authorization runs with the land. In the event the property is to be sold, leased, rented or occupied by any person or corporation other than yourself, it is incumbent upon you to advise them regarding the conditions of this grant.

#### VIOLATIONS OF THESE CONDITIONS, A MISDEMEANOR

Section 12.29 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code provides:

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"A variance, conditional use, adjustment, public benefit or other quasi-judicial approval, or any conditional approval granted by the Director, pursuant to the authority of this chapter shall become effective upon utilization of any portion of the privilege, and the owner and applicant shall immediately comply with its Conditions. The violation of any valid Condition imposed by the Director, Zoning Administrator, Area Planning Commission, City Planning Commission or City Council in connection with the granting of any action taken pursuant to the authority of this chapter shall constitute a violation of this chapter and shall be subject to the same penalties as any other violation of this Code."

Every violation of this determination is punishable as a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

#### **APPEAL PERIOD - EFFECTIVE DATE**

The applicant's attention is called to the fact that this grant is not a permit or license and that any permits and licenses required by law must be obtained from the proper public agency. Furthermore, if any Condition of this grant is violated or if the same be not complied with, then the applicant or his successor in interest may be prosecuted for

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violating these Conditions the same as for any violation of the requirements contained in the Municipal Code. The Zoning Administrator's determination in this matter will become effective after <u>February 21, 2012</u>, unless an appeal there from is filed with the <u>City</u> <u>Planning Department</u>. It is strongly advised that appeals be filed <u>early</u> during the appeal period and in person so that imperfections/incompleteness may be corrected before the appeal period expires. Any appeal must be filed on the prescribed forms, accompanied by the required fee, a copy of the Zoning Administrator's action, and received and receipted at a public office of the Department of City Planning <u>on or before</u> the above date or the appeal will not be accepted. **Forms are also available on-line at** http://planning.lacity.org/ Public offices are located at:

Figueroa Plaza 201 North Figueroa Street, 4th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213) 482-7077 Marvin Braude San Fernando Valley Constituent Service Center 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Room 251 Van Nuys, CA 91401 (818) 374-5050

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If you seek judicial review of any decision of the City pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5, the petition for writ of mandate pursuant to that section must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which the City's decision became final pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6. There may be other time limits, which also affect your ability to seek judicial review.

### <u>NOTICE</u>

The applicant is further advised that all subsequent contact with this office regarding this determination must be with the Zoning Administrator who acted on the case. This would include clarification, verification of condition compliance and plans or building permit applications, etc., and shall be accomplished **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**, in order to assure that you receive service with a minimum amount of waiting. You should advise any consultant representing you of this requirement as well.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

After thorough consideration of the statements contained in the application and the plans submitted therewith, all of which are by reference made a part hereof, as well as knowledge of the property and surrounding district, I find as follows:

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#### BACKGROUND

The applicant proposes to construct a new 55,059 square-foot (52,126 square feet of floor area), 4-story affordable housing complex comprised of 63 rental units with 63 on-site parking spaces. The proposed building comprises of a parking garage at the ground level and three levels of above-ground residential units. The primary pedestrian entrance is located along the street front abutting Western Avenue while vehicular access takes place off the alley in the "rear" of the property. The height of the building is proposed at approximately 44 feet to the top of the parapet.

The proposed project is an affordable apartment building financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), "9% Tax Credits" through the State of California, and the Los Angeles Housing Department. This project is a component of a larger multi-site, portfolio-awarded subsidy by the aforementioned agencies. On the subject site, 24 existing affordable units will be demolished and 63 affordable units rebuilt in their place. On the other three "subsidy" sites, a total of 60 affordable units will be rehabilitated in order to preserve existing "At-Risk" Section 8 housing. As a part of this funding process, HUD has agreed to transfer a portion of the existing Section 8 contract to the subject 63unit structure. HUD and the Housing Authority have approved the permanent relocation plan for the existing 24 households.

The subject site is a level, rectangular-shaped lot consisting of five contiguous parcels consisting of 27,698 gross square feet in the C2-1VL Zone and designated as General Commercial land use in the South Los Angeles Community Plan area. The project site is located on the west side of Western Avenue mid-block between 103<sup>rd</sup> and 104<sup>th</sup> Streets. The site is also located within the Central City Revitalization Zone.

The subject site is currently developed with six, 4-unit apartment structures (24 total units) constructed in 1943, and in deteriorating condition. The site also includes one vacant commercial building with three empty store fronts. These uses will be demolished in order to construct a project that includes 63 1-bedroom affordable apartments. The property to the north is developed with an auto repair use in the C2 Zone. Properties to the east, across Western Avenue, are variably developed with an auto repair use a duplex and small retail uses in the C2 zone. The property is developed with a 2-story apartment building in the C2 Zone. Properties to the east, across the alley, are developed with single-family homes in the R1 Zone.

Previous Cases, Affidavits, Permits, and Orders On the Applicant's Property:

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There are no relevant cases.

Previous Cases, Affidavits, Permits, and Orders On Surrounding Properties:

<u>Case No. ZA 2010-0680(ZAA)</u> – On March 15, 2011, the Zoning Administrator approved in part and denied in part yard adjustments for the expansion of a single-family home.

<u>Western Avenue</u> is a Major Highway Class II dedicated to a 100-foot width at the project's street frontage.

An alley is dedicated to a 20-foot width at the project's street frontage.

#### ZONE VARIANCE FINDINGS

In order for a variance from the zoning regulations to be granted, all five of the legally mandated findings delineated in Section 12.27 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code must be made in the affirmative. Following (highlighted) is a delineation of the findings and the application of the relevant facts of the case to same:

1. The strict application of the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the zoning regulations.

### Floor Area Ratio

The applicant proposes to construct a new 55,059 square-foot (52,126 square feet of floor area), 4-story affordable housing complex comprised of 63 rental units on a site consisting of 27,698 gross square feet (24,954 square feet of buildable lot area) in the C2-1VL Zone. This would result in a floor area ratio of approximately 2.1:1 FAR (52,126 / 24,954), which exceeds the permitted total floor area of a maximum 1.5:1 FAR. The Zoning Code restricts the total floor area of a building(s) on a lot in a commercial zone in Height District No. 1 to not exceed one-and-one-half times the buildable area of the lot, or 1.5:1 FAR, regardless of whether the use is commercial or residential. On the other hand, the Code allows a total floor area of a building(s) on a lot in a less intensive R4 Zone in the same Height District No. 1 up to three times the buildable area of the lot, or 3:1 FAR. A C2-1VL Zone, which allows for more intensive commercial uses, also allows uses permitted on a R4-1VL Zone as a matter of right. In other words, if the site was zoned R4, the proposed affordable apartment project would have been allowed without any special entitlements. However, in this particular case, the floor area provisions of a site zoned C2, which is intended for the purpose of tempering the massing of a commercial use, would restrict a residential building that would otherwise be allowed by-right on a lot zoned R4, a less intensive zone. The variance consideration in the Code is to allow the Zoning Administrator flexibility in approving projects that would result in practical difficulties inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the floor area regulations. The proposed affordable housing project meets the intent of the Code in allowing multi-residential uses at less than 3:1 FAR. Further, careful design and architectural treatments have been incorporated to enhance a deteriorating, underutilized site.

#### Transitional Height

The subject site is designated a Height District No. 1VL, which permits the height of buildings to a maximum of 45 feet. The height of the proposed apartment building is approximately 44 feet to the top of the parapet, which would be in compliance with the requirements of the Zoning Code. However, the Code restricts the height of a building on a commercially zoned lot of a maximum of 25 feet when located within a distance of 49 feet to a lot zoned for single-family homes. The project site is zoned C2-1VL and is located adjacent to a lot zoned R1 to the west. Thus, the proposed project is subject to the height limit of 25 feet. If, however, the site was zoned for multi-family residential uses, such as less intensive R4-1VL, then the height of the proposed apartment building would be fully in compliance with the height regulations. There are countless instances throughout the City where single-family zoned lots are purposefully positioned adjacent to multi-family zoned lots to create a buffer away from more intense, major commercial corridors. This creates a natural progression, or "transition", of less intensive uses to more intensive uses. In fact, it is proper planning practice to arrange single-family homes next to multi-family

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residential buildings and thereby away from commercial uses. The approval of this variance will allow the redevelopment of a blighted site in favor of attractive, affordable, new housing. The proposed affordable multi-family development serves as an appropriate transition between the single-family residences to the west and the relatively busy commercial uses and traffic along Western Avenue to the east.

As such, the strict application of the Code would create unnecessary hardships for the proposed affordable residential building inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the floor area and transitional height provisions.

# There are special circumstances applicable to the subject property such as size, shape, topography, location or surroundings that do not apply generally to other property in the same zone and vicinity.

The subject site is a level, rectangular-shaped lot consisting of five contiguous parcels comprised of 27,698 gross square feet in the C2-1VL Zone and designated as General Commercial land use in the South Los Angeles Community Plan area. The project site is located on the west side of Western Avenue mid-block between 103<sup>rd</sup> and 104<sup>th</sup> Streets. The subject site is currently developed with six smaller apartment buildings built in 1943, in deteriorating condition. The site also includes one vacant commercial building with three empty store fronts. These uses will be demolished in order to construct a project that includes 63 one-bedroom affordable rental units. The property to the north is developed with an auto repair use in the C2 Zone. Properties to the east, across Western Avenue, are variably developed with an auto repair use, a duplex and small retail uses in the C2 zone. The property to the south is developed with a two-story apartment building also in the C2 Zone. Properties to the east, across the alley, are developed with single-family homes in the R1 Zone. Nearby blocks to the north and south on Western Avenue contain a mixture of commercial, residential and public uses with building heights varying between 15 and 45 feet.

As mentioned above, the subject site is zoned C2-1VL, which allows for more intensive commercial uses with a maximum of 1.5:1 FAR, whereas a site zoned R4-1VL allows less intensive residential uses but with a higher 3:1 FAR. Special circumstances exist due to the fact that an apartment project is being proposed at 2.1:1 FAR in a commercial zone. If the site was zoned R4, for instance, the proposed affordable apartment project would have been allowed as a matter of right. No special entitlements would be required. There has been a relatively recent recognition by the City for the need to allow residential uses (and mixed uses) at 3:1 FAR along commercial corridors, resulting in the creation of RAS3 and RAS4 Zones. The proposed apartment project is also subject to the transitional height requirements because the site is commercially zoned. The intent of the transitional height requirements is to buffer single-family homes away from the more intensive uses and traffic impacts of commercial corridors. The proposed project is a multi-family residential use with affordable units. Again, if the site were zoned for multi-family residential uses, such as R4-1VL, then the height of the proposed apartment building would be fully in compliance with the height regulations.

In both instances, inherent conflicts exist between policies encouraging the production of affordable housing and the provisions of the Code that were created to help buffer single-family housing from adjacent commercial buildings. The approval this variance would allow an apartment building, which would otherwise be permitted by-right on a multi-family residential zone, on a commercial zone. The current market forces and social trend are pushing commercial corridors to evolve into mixed-use centers as a viable option for permanent residence and providing an opportunity for the area to be developed into an urban community. In-fill developments of residential and mixed-use buildings have become part of traditional major commercial thoroughfares to provide much-needed housing options.

3. Such variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use generally possessed by other property in the same zone and vicinity but which, because of such special circumstances and practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships, is denied the property in question.

The project site is located in a C2-1VL Zone along Western Ave. This portion of Western Avenue forms a transitional commercial corridor, and the immediate surrounding properties comprise of commercial, including auto repair uses, and multi-family uses. The proposed project is proposing an attractive and efficiently designed residential development that is consistent with the General Commercial designation which permits residential properties that comply with R4 zoning standards. The project provides 63 parking spaces for 63 rental units, consistent with Parking Option One of the City's affordable housing incentives.

The design of the proposed development comprises of a parking garage at the ground level and three levels of above-ground residential units. The primary pedestrian entrance is located along the street front abutting Western Avenue to activate the sidewalk, while vehicular access takes place off the alley in the "rear" of the property with minimal circulation impacts. The height of the building is proposed at approximately 44 feet to the top of the parapet, substantially in conformance with Height District No. 1/L of 45 feet and consistent with a mixture of commercial, residential and public uses of building heights varying between 15 and 45 feet along nearby blocks to the north and south on Western Avenue. The approval of this variance would allow the community to enjoy the benefits of a well-designed, new housing project providing affordable rates, which would otherwise not be allowed.

# 4. The granting of such variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the same zone or vicinity in which the property is located.

The granting of such variances will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare, in that the site is located along Western Avenue, a transitional, mostlycommercial in nature with some multi-family uses in the South Los Angeles Community Plan area. The housing project will increase activity along the sidewalk as well as providing well-placed lighting to create a safer neighborhood. The brightcolored, affordable housing complex will enhance a site that is in deteriorating condition. Further, the project will have minimal impacts on the surrounding neighborhood as the single-family lots to the west are separated by a 20-foot wide alley. The distance from the proposed apartment building to the closest single-family home (excluding non-habitable garages) is approximately 100 feet.

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The proposed project is an affordable apartment building, financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), "9% Tax Credits" through the State of California, and the Los Angeles Housing Department. This project is a component of a larger multi-site, portfolio-awarded subsidy by the aforementioned agencies. On the subject site, 24 existing affordable units will be demolished and 63 affordable units rebuilt in their place. On the other three "subsidy" sites, a total of 60 affordable units will be rehabilitated in order to preserve existing "At-Risk" Section 8 housing. As a part of this funding process, HUD has agreed to transfer a portion of the existing Section 8 contract to the subject 63-unit structure. HUD and the Housing Authority have approved the permanent relocation plan for the existing 24 households.

Additionally, the Applicant has garnered the support of the Council Office and Mayor's Office for this project. The much-needed affordable housing project will not be materially detrimental to the general welfare, but in fact, provide benefits to the community.

The granting of the variance will not adversely affect any element of the General Plan.

The South Los Angeles Community Plan map designates the property for General Commercial land use with a corresponding zone of C1.5, C2, C4, RAS3, and RAS4. The General Commercial designation permits residential properties that comply with R4 zoning standards. The proposed development of 63 affordable residential rental units is allowable under the current adopted zone and the land use designation. The site is located in a developed urban area along Western Avenue, a Major Highway Class II, which is predominantly characterized by a variety of commercial, some multi-family residential and light industrial uses. It is served by several transit lines, including Metro bus lines 207, 305 and 757. The apartment project will provide much needed affordable housing units for the South Los Angeles Community Plan area, meeting several of the plan's objectives for residential development.

- Objective 1-1: To provide for the preservation of existing housing and for the development of new housing to meet the diverse economic and physical needs of the existing residents and projected population of the Plan area to the year 2010.
- Objective 1-2:
   To locate new housing in a manner which reduces vehicular trips and makes it accessible to services and facilities.

   Open services
   Services and facilities.
- Objective 1-3: To preserve and enhance the varied and distinct residential character and integrity of existing single- and multi-family neighborhoods.

5.

*Objective 1-5:* To promote and ensure the provision of adequate housing for all persons regardless of income, age, or ethnic background.

#### ADDITIONAL MANDATORY FINDINGS

- 12. The National Flood Insurance Program rate maps, which are a part of the Flood Hazard Management Specific Plan adopted by the City Council by Ordinance No. 172,081, have been reviewed and it has been determined that the property is located in Zone C, areas of minimal flooding.
- 13. On January 18, 2012, the project was issued a Notice of Exemption, log reference ENV-2011-3127-CE, for a Categorical Exemption, Class 5, Category 10. I hereby adopt that action.

I concur with the report prepared by Jae Kim, Planning Staff for the Office of Zoning Administration, on this application and approve same.

Jae Kim **City Planner** (213) 978-1383

LINN K. WYATT Chief Zoning Administrator Direct Telephone Number (213) 978-1318

LW:JK:jjq

cc: Councilmember Bernard Parks, Eighth District



Preservation Partners development a, LLC 256 Hawthorne Blvd. Slite 25, torrance, ca 33503

COMIN DEVELOPMENT

ZA 2011 3126

# WESTERN APARTMENTS

10311 SO. WESTERN AVENUE, LOS ANGELES

PRESERVATION PARTNERS DEVELOPMENT III, LLC 21515 MAWTHORNE BLVD. SUITE 125 TORRANCE, CA 90503

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COUNT	Y CLERK'S USE	CITY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 360	CITY CLERK'S USE					
		LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 RNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT						
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION								
(California Environmental Quality Act Section 15062)								
Filing of this form is optional. If filed, the form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650,								
pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152 (b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167 (d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project. Failure to file this notice with the County Clerk results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.								
LEAD ( City o	TTY AGENCY f Los Angeles Dep2rAgent8f	tyPlanning 126-ZV	COUNCIL DISTRICT 8					
PROJE ¥	CT TITLE WESTERN AP		LOG REFERENCE ENV 2011-3127-(E					
PROJECT LOCATION 10311 S. WESTERN AVE								
DESCF	IPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND I	BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT: AFFORD	ABLE HOUSING					
NAME X	OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING (	OUT PROJECT, IF OTHER THAN LEAD CITY A	GENCY:					
	CTPERSON DNATHAN LONNER	AREA CODE   TELEPHO * (ろ) * ろし	NE NUMBER   EXT. 420-9165					
EXEM	PT STATUS: (Check One)							
		STATE CEQA GUIDELINES	CITY CEOA GUIDELINES					
	MINISTERIAL	Sec. 15268	Art. II, Sec. 2b					
D	DECLARED EMERGENCY	Sec. 15269	Art. II, Sec. 2a (1)					
	EMERGENCY PROJECT	Sec. 15269 (b) & (c)	Art. II, Sec. 2a (2) & (3)					
1	CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION	Sec. 15300 et seq.	Art. III, Sec. 1					
	Class <u>5</u> Categor	y10(City CEQA Guidelines)						
	OTHER (See Public Resources	Code Sec. 21080 (b) and set forth state and City	y guideline provision.					
JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION: Minor area variances, building location and configuration variances, yard variances, or slight modifications which do not result in any change in land use or additional dwelling units.								
IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND THE PROJECT TO BE EXEMPT.								
SIGNA	TURE ( And ( )	TITLE City Planner	DATE 1-18-12 DATE - 18-12					
FEE:	81- RECEIPT NO	193 - Die El	DATE 12/6/11					
DISTRIBUTION: (1) County Clerk, (2) City Clerk, (3) Agency Record Rev. 11-1-03								
	D BY THE APPLICANT:							
11 I I I.C.								

\* JONATHAN LONNER NAME (PRINTED)

\* 12/6/2011 DATE

SIGNATURE

# DETERMINATION LETTER ZA-2011-3126-ZV-1A MAILING DATE: 03/29/12

Bobbie-Jean & Cathryn Collins, Linda Riley, & Ella Kennedy Homeowners Assoc. 103<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan P 10328 & 10310 S. Manhattan PI. Los Angeles, CA 90047

Betty J. Lowe 10335 S. Manhattan Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90047

Wallace & Kathleen Pounds 10318 S. Manhattan Place Los Angeles, CA 90047

Robert & Ella Kennedy 10304 S. Manhattan Place Los Angeles, CA 90047

Francis Soriano 2304 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90019

Empowerment Congress S.W. Area Neighborhood Development Council 8475 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90044

Kenneth & Nalis L Mercier 10311 S. Manhattan Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90041

Norris Byrd 8839 S. Wilton Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90047

Kennedy 10378 S. Manhattan Los Angeles, CA 90047 Ciliam Szymczak LA Pro II Preservation Limited Partnership 21515 Hawthorne Blvd., Ste. 125 Torrance, CA 90503

Allison Anderson 2845 S. Harcourt Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90016

Jean Bobbie Collins 10328 S. Manhattan Place Los Angeles, CA 90047

Tommie Kyle 10314 S. Manhattan Place Los Angeles, CA 90047

Noe De Dios Morales 10301 S. Western Avenue #B Los Angeles, CA 90037

Javier Chavez 1303 S. Shadydale Avenue West Covina, CA 91790

Michael & Michelle Graham 454 Muirfield Road Los Angeles, CA 90250

Thomasina Lawrence 8909 Gramercy Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90047

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Hazel Dean 1347 W. 70<sup>th</sup> Street Los Angeles, CA 90044 Kristen & Johnathan Lonner Burns & Bouchard, Inc. 11990 San Vicente Blvd., Ste. 200 Los Angeles, CA 90049

Rao R. Yalamanchili Los Angeles Properties Apts. II, LP 244 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006

The Manhattan PI. #10324 Trust 311 N. Robertson Blvd., #477 Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Donald Riley 10310 S. Manhattan Place Los Angeles, CA 90047

Michael & Pauline Lee 25250 Denny Road Torrance, CA 90047

Perkins, Cariell & Rosalind TRS 6120 Bedford Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90056

Councilmember Bernard Parks Eighth Council District City Hall, Room 460 Mail Stop #213

Edward & Sharon Watson 10038 S. Manhattan Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90047

Andrew & Ceola McPherson 1840 W. 77<sup>th</sup> Street Los Angeles, CA 90047

Allyne & Monica Elleby 10300 S. Manhattan Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90047 Maxine Wynn 10221 S. Manhattan Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90047

Katherine Hennigan Office of the Mayor City Hall, Room 303 Mail Stop #370 Clarence & Gloria Magee 2125 W. 84<sup>th</sup> Place Los Angeles, CA 90047

Jae Kim City Planner City Hall, Room 721 **Mail Stop #395**  Julia Baker 10045 S Manhattan Pl. Los Angeles, CA 90047

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