

16-0627  
6/7/16

**From:** Rosalie Huntington <rosaliedan@aol.com>

**To:** Councilmember.Huizar <Councilmember.Huizar@lacity.org>; Councilmember.Harris-Dawson <Councilmember.Harris-Dawson@lacity.org>; Councilmember.Cedillo <Councilmember.Cedillo@lacity.org>; Councilmember.Englander <Councilmember.Englander@lacity.org>; Councilmember.Fuentes <Councilmember.Fuentes@lacity.org>

**Cc:** Mike.Bonin <Mike.Bonin@lacity.org>; Tricia.Keane <Tricia.Keane@lacity.org>; Sharon.Dickinson <Sharon.Dickinson@lacity.org>

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**Subject:** PLUM Meeting June 7, 2016 - Architectural Style of Caruso Project in Pacific Palisades - CF 16-0627

**Date:** Tue, Jun 7, 2016 8:16 am

**Attachments:** Fig. D 6a - Custom Light Pole Type A - Based on Dabmar Post Fixture GM-9000 - Caruso Palisades Project.jpg (10K),  
Fig. D 6b - Custom Light Pole Type B - Based on Dabmar Post Fixture GM-9270 - Caruso Palisades Project.jpg (9K)

To: Members of the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Regarding: CF 16-0627 (PLUM Committee hearing Tuesday, June 7, 2016)

CPC-2015-2714-VZC-SP-DRB-SPP and ENV-2015-2715-MND; 1029-1049 N. Swarthmore Ave.; 1012-1032 N. Swarthmore Ave.; 1023-1055 N. Monument St.; and 15229-15281 W. Sunset Blvd. (Rick Caruso's "Palisades Village Project" or "Caruso Project").

Of deep concern is the overall architectural style and design. An example is the street lights Mr. Caruso wants to use. See the potential amended Pacific Palisades Commercial Village and Neighborhoods Specific Plan, Appendix A – Streetscape Design, page A-22, Figures D-6a and D-6b. Both of these light poles are completely out of line with local style. They look like they belong in Merry Olde England, not in Pacific Palisades. (Photos of both light poles are attached.)

Please read on.

The commercial district Caruso Affiliated is demolishing right now to make way for the new shopping area is original midcentury modern – an architectural style which, we are proud to say, has many of its roots in Pacific Palisades. And this commercial district is part of those roots.

The midcentury modern Swarthmore Avenue Commercial District was part of SurveyLA. and would have been given "historic" status, except that over the years some of the buildings' materials were changed and some of the facades changed.

But the midcentury modern core of this important and architecturally significant two-sided block is to this day, part of the heart of Pacific Palisades – until the remaining businesses move out and the Caruso bulldozers demolish the rest of it.

The Design Review Board and the Planning Commission understand that. The DRB requested, and Planning Commission is requiring, that Mr. Caruso incorporate midcentury modern flavor in his design. So he has added one beautifully-redesigned building at the far northern end. It's unclear if this is the only redesign of midcentury modern in the entire project. Prior to this, the new project was all faux Cape Cod or Hamptons – which of course, has zero historic, creative roots in Pacific Palisades. Like some nearby homes being remodeled or newly-built in Cape Cod style, it is important to remember this is an import. East Coast Cape Cod or Hamptons style has no creative roots here.

The Planning Commission also wants Caruso to add Art Deco (likely because of the design of the Bay Theater marquee) and Classical. The addition of these styles for buildings could create a visual jumble.

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2 Attached Images