

Date: 11/21/17
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 17-0932
Item No.: 9
Communication
from public

November 21, 2017
Public Testimony at PLUM Public Appeal Hearing
Council File: 17-0932, Case No. VTT-73891-1A

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COUNCIL FILE: 17-0932
CASE NO.: VTT-73891-1A
CEQA NO.: ENV-2015-4087-MND
PROJECT SITE: 11460-11488 West Gateway Blvd., 2426 South Colby Avenue & 2425 South Butler Avenue

To: Los Angeles PLUM Committee

My name is Rosie Kato and I speak neither as an elected WLA Sawtelle Neighborhood Council Board Member nor as a PLUM Committee member—but as a community advocate and resident homeowner.

- This project is being falsely presented as strictly residential—when it contains commercial live-work units.
- This project was overwhelmingly opposed by the WLA Sawtelle Neighborhood Council at their February 22, 2017 board meeting. All voting members were eligible to vote and understood the scope of the project. The vote was 7-NO, 3-YES with 1-ABSTENTION. The January 25, 2017 board vote which was cited by the developer was not valid per the Neighborhood Council's Bylaws. The project was clearly NOT approved by the Neighborhood Council. See screenshot below.
- Two fully mature 'protected' sycamore trees are growing on the project site. The trees are protected for reason and should be protected at all costs. The protected status of the trees was not discussed with the community. If the two trees are removed, we are requesting that they be replaced with four sycamores in big 48"-boxes. The project should be redesigned with a public plaza where the trees can be planted to grow out. Why would protected trees be removed because they do not have an apparent aesthetic value that contributes to the appearance and design of the project, that its location interferes with proposed utility services, that its continued presence prevents the reasonable development of the property...
- The public alleyway is valuable public land and should not be vacated simply because the property owner filed an application fee of about \$15,000. The Planning Commission knows the alleyway is required for any future development on adjacent properties. Additionally, Parking Enforcement is continually citing vehicles parked in the alleyway.
- This project is too dense for the location and the impact to the surrounding residential community. I drive past the project site regularly to avoid driving over the Expo rail tracks about four blocks away and the nightmare traffic that DOT created. The General Plan requires that the City protect the surrounding neighborhood.
- Perhaps Planning can explain how is it that the Planning ~~Supplemental~~ Environmental Analysis that was filed the following Monday, Nov. 6 states "four carrotwood trees within the Gateway Boulevard right-of-way that have been poorly maintained, having been "topped"...and are in poor health and in poor form." when the trees were only just topped the previous Friday morning of November 3...?
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