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JUN - 5 2018
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June 5, 2018

TO: Los Angeles City Council

FROM: West Adams Heritage Association

Re: Item 18-0367 (CD 9) No. 17

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to evaluating the proposed hotel project at 3900 Figueroa Street and making recommendations on economic development incentives that could help the project move forward.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Price - Buscaino), SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR.

Honorable Members of the City Council:

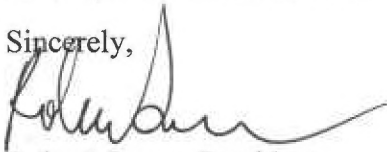
WAHA joins with the community members in opposition to the current economic development proposal to hire consultants in furtherance of a potential site specific revenue agreement "consistent with City policies." Such proposal cannot be consistent with City policies because it destroys affordable historic housing.

1. This recommendation to Council is made in a vacuum ignoring the affordable historic housing which consists of the Flower Drive California Register District. The developers propose demolishing 8 out of 19 residences in the historic district. The West Adams Heritage Association was the proponent for the certification by the State Historic Resources Commission of the Flower Drive Historic District, which determined that this constituted a historic district not once, but twice at two of their regularly scheduled Commission hearings. After two State Historic Commission hearings, one in Santa Barbara on July 25 2008, and a second one in Sacramento, with well-connected opposition, the State Historic Resources Commission designated the Flower Drive Historic District. In addition, this district was identified in the historic survey for the Hoover Redevelopment Project (later named the Exposition Park/University Park Redevelopment Project Area).
2. We object to the absence of outreach to stakeholders within the Neighborhood Council (NANDC). There is no CIS because there has been no effort to seek community input and comment by the Neighborhood Council. No decision should be made by City Council in the absence of that process. This proposal lacks any transparency.

3. The Orange County developers do not respect the residents, have not sought Neighborhood Council input, and fail to understand the context of the neighborhood in which they desire to place their development.
4. The use of any public funds to assist in the demolition of some of the city's limited historic resources through direct or through other incentives conflict with the goals of the Southeast Community Plan and with the Community Redevelopment Project in which the site is located.
5. The CRA Redevelopment project's sets a specific goal "to encourage the preservation of historical monuments, landmarks and buildings." This proposal fails to meet that objective.
6. We ask what are the implications of this Council action subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

In closing we object to this council action and ask that it be sent back to committee to allow for review and reconfiguration of its priorities. Affordable housing can be saved along with a development that includes the Flower Drive historic district.

Sincerely,



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