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August 31, 2020

Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

Attention: PLUM Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION FOR DESMOND'S DEPARTMENT STORE, LOCATED AT 612-616 S. BROADWAY; CF 19-1525

Los Angeles City Planning has been asked by the Chief Legislative Analyst's Office to provide input on the PLUM Committee's scheduling of the Historic-Cultural Monument application for Desmond's Department Store, located at 612-616 S. Broadway.

On March 5, 2020, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted 4-1 to approve the nomination, upholding the Office of Historic Resources' professional staff recommendation that the building meets two of the three criteria for Historic-Cultural Monument designation: 1) it is significant for its association with Desmond's Department Store and the development of the Broadway commercial district in the first half of the 20th century; and 2) it is an excellent and intact example of Spanish Baroque architecture in downtown Los Angeles, and an excellent example of the work of architect Albert C. Martin.

Los Angeles City Planning staff transmitted the Commission's recommendation to your committee on March 26, 2020. Because no circumstances have changed since March, Los Angeles City Planning staff continues to find this property eligible for consideration at this time by the PLUM Committee and the full City Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
Director of Planning