

September 15, 2019

CITY CLERK

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To City Clerk Mark Jomsky:
Regarding: #8 on the Public Hearing on Sept. 16, 2019

We are a team from Knox Presbyterian Church, focusing on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. Our church is located on the corner of Hill and Del Mar, across the street from Pasadena City College (PCC). One of the first things we did as a team was visit Dr. Ketmani Kouanchoa, Associate Dean of Special Services Office at PCC on Wednesday night, September 11th. We learned how 13% to 20% of the students are hungry, and many of them visit the campus food pantry. We also heard how 19% of the students are homeless, for a host of reasons. The college does not have dorms, so they do not have an option to provide a room, and waive Housing Costs.

We are wondering and exploring what we can do. One of those steps is to continue to allow the old Ford agency site - 1347-1355 East Colorado Boulevard, 39 North Hill Avenue (north parcel), and 1336 East Colorado Boulevard (south parcel)- to be used as Affordable Student Housing. That would give at least a few of the students of these 19% homeless to have an opportunity to find a home. We collectively need to find creative ways to allow more Affordable Housing, and this would be such a great location for PCC students.

We urge you to move forward to designate this old Ford agency cite for an Affordable Housing option. Keep the zoning either for Student Housing and wait for another Affordable Housing option, or change the zoning to allow for micro units. We collectively need to find a way to get housing for students.

Sincerely,

Housing Justice Team
Knox Presbyterian Church
225 South Hill Avenue, Pasadena 91106

Michael Veerman

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9/16/2019
Item 8

Jomsky, Mark

From: Chuck Ryor <chuck@prismchurch.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 14, 2019 11:14 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: In Favor of the Development

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Dear Pasadena City Council,

As the Pastor of Prism Church (61 N. Hill Ave.), a congregation that has bordered the Colorado Blvd./Hill Ave. property for the past decade, I am writing to speak in favor of the hotel complex approved and now under discussion again. The commercial needs of the area are better addressed by the business owners of the area. As someone who ministers to students and people in this neighborhood, I can assure from firsthand experience that a bigger risk to PCC students is the drug use and vagrancy that has taken place on that property over the past decade. Our property at 61 N. Hill Ave. has been robbed multiple times, and the presence of this criminal activity has disrupted our care for children at the church. I can only imagine that the decades old abandoned building directly adjacent to the south of our property is a danger and a health hazard. The approved hotel complex will address safety concerns that we've had for ten years, hence our support. Delaying the development by making this about affordable housing will only prolong these long-standing problems.

As a church, we are certainly concerned for both homelessness and the affordable housing shortage in Pasadena. We serve the homeless in partnership with Union Station in Pasadena and provide food and drink to the homeless who come to our facility. However, whatever percentage of PCC students that are homeless are not necessarily from Pasadena. As you know, a small percentage of PCC students live in Pasadena or near Pasadena City College. There are most certainly other places in Pasadena that the City Council could designate for this type of housing, whereas a hotel development only makes sense in this largely business area. Put another way, I doubt that Hilton is going to put their Currio Brand hotel in locations that would be useful for low cost housing.

Prism Church is thankful for the efforts of this development group to clean up this corner that has been a visual and safety blight for this part of the city.

Respectfully,

Rev. Chuck Ryor, PhD

Lead Pastor, Prism Church
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