

Jomsky, Mark

From: Ken Perry <kenpasadena@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 2:04 PM
To: Masuda, Gene, Tornek, Terry
Cc: Jomsky, Mark, action@savepasadenaciviccenter.org,
NewsDesk@PasadenaNowMagazine.com, letters.star-news@sgvn.com,
andrec@pasadenaweekly.com, events@coloradoblvd.net
Subject: Stop the Ill-Fated Kimpton Hotel Project That Will Ruin Our Civic Center

Honorable Mayor Tornek and Councilmember Masuda:

I am writing today to urge you to stop the ill-fated Kimpton Hotel project that will destroy our civic center. Taking over public park land, destroying the integrity of the Jackie Robinson Memorial and ruining the views of our iconic city hall doesn't seem to be a very logical or desirable way to bring a boutique hotel to Pasadena.

I can't believe you and the Kimpton development team haven't come up with a more obvious and better solution when there are empty store fronts and blighted business areas all over Pasadena that would benefit from a new development like this.

That's why I've joined the Pasadena Civic Center Coalition to stop this momentous disaster. You have had to pause the project and are trying to give the developer money to stay on board, while a group of concerned citizens is banding together and are donating their hard-earned money to try to stop you in court. Hello. Alarm bells should be ringing in your heads telling you something isn't quite right with this picture.

The Kimpton Hotel is just one example of new and proposed development that is ruining the character of our city. From the prison-like fortress Trio Apartments in the Playhouse district to multiple box-like apartments being strewn across town, you are turning our streets into cement canyons, causing our traffic to come to a halt, and overwhelming our overtaxed infrastructure.

Then there's news of an effort to bring a Home Depot to the former Avon distribution property. Really? This isn't a joke? Already it's almost impossible to travel down Foothill during most of the day. You risk your life trying to get in and out of Hasting Ranch commercial areas. Gridlock Boulevard is a better name for this street. Meanwhile, east of Lake, Colorado Boulevard is littered with blighted commercial strips, empty storefronts and prostitution. South Lake is littered with empty store fronts, and nothing can seem to make it here very long. Ill-fated traffic and parking "plans" and neglect are ruining these areas of the city.

While you are making sweetheart deals with developers, the basics of running a city are falling down the priority list. For instance, where I live, you can't drive down Paloma or Mountain without huge chunks of the road coming up. One chunk almost hit me this morning as I was walking in my neighborhood.

So I join with those who say no to more runaway development. Stop strangling our city streets with ugly development and ruining our civic character. If I wanted dancing fountains, I would live in Las Vegas. If I wanted anything goes development and gridlock, I would have moved to the San Fernando Valley.

I hope you will start doing more for the citizens that live here and love Pasadena, and stop letting greedy, out-of-town developers have their way with our great city.

Sincerely,

Ken Perry
775 N. Martelo Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91104

Jomsky, Mark

From: David W <davidrwhitehead@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 10:39 AM
To: De La Cuba, Vannia, Gordo, Victor
Cc: Tornek, Terry, Mermell, Steve, Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Opposition to the YWCA Kimpton Hotel Project

Dear Council Member Gordo,

Thank you for your vote on April 3, 2017 to reject an additional \$30 million public subsidy to KHP Pasadena III, LLC and your acknowledgement that the proposed YWCA/KHP hotel development is now so severely compromised that it must be "paused".

The YWCA Kimpton Hotel Project's developers have misled the City with its initial low-ball number of hotel rooms. And misled the a second time when it initially indicated no subsidies would be needed and now they are requesting \$30+ million of subsidies from the City.

Council's directive to staff to explore other alternatives including public uses is a step in the right direction. I support this, and ask you to take additional action to:

1. Not allow private development on the public open space and rescind the declaration that this parkland is "surplus property".
2. Initiate a robust, public access to fully engage citizens in visioning and planning for this critically important YWCA land and building, the Robinson Memorial and public open space
3. Engage a qualified professional urban land use planning firm, with expertise in civic center design and historic preservation, to develop a range of alternatives for this Civic Center space.

Let's put in the effort to maintain and enhance the City's beautiful Civic Center for the residents, workers, students, and visitors of Pasadena, now and in the future.

Mark Jomsky, I request you please save this letter to be included as part of future City Council discussions of the YWCA/KHP project.

Thank you for your attention and thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

David Whitehead

Pasadena District 5 resident

Jomsky, Mark

From: Robert Winter <wntrwint@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark

Dear Mark,
Please distribute this message to Mayor Tornek and all City Councilmembers

Dear Friends,

My old colleague, David Gebhard, with whom I wrote five editions of our guides to architecture in Southern California, once told me that next to Sir Edwin Lutyen's plan for New Delhi in India, Pasadena's Civic Center was the finest example of city planning in the world

I am not an expert on that subject, but as a proud resident of Pasadena for 45 years and an admirer of this city for even more, I second his opinion

The Civic Center is all of one piece: the City Hall, the Library, the Civic Auditorium, and the YMCA and YWCA ---all linked together by beautiful parks---and all together a grand masterpiece

Any encroachment upon them would be a disaster

Sincerely,
Robert Winter
Emeritus Professor of History, Occidental College
Fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians
Co-Author of the first Cultural Heritage Ordinance of the City of Pasadena, and long-time member of the Commission that it created