



Livable Pasadena

August 26, 2019

City Council
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: Reconsideration of Affordable Housing Concession Permit No. 11869, 253 South Los Robles Avenue

Dear Mayor Torneck and City Council:

We were very concerned to learn that the proposed project at 253 South Los Robles Avenue may be back on the City Council agenda. This project already was the subject of much debate. In the end, the City Council made the right choice when it did not vote to approve the project as submitted. It is vitally important that a CEQA analysis is done on any project that is this large and that could have this big an impact on our community. We cannot make decisions this big without all of the information.

We are hopeful that, if this proposed project comes before City Council a second time, it will undergo substantial changes and will be subject to all necessary reviews. The project should have green spaces protected, breathing room intact, and should be a better reflection of the surrounding area. We hope the developer listened to, and will respond to, community concerns. It will be terrible if the project is put back on the agenda in the same form that it was before, in what would merely be a second attempt to pass the same project. The objections of the community to this project remain the same as they were in July.

Affordable housing is an important city goal. But this project, as previously proposed, did not make any impact on our affordable housing needs. Instead, it provided a large number of extremely expensive condos and a smattering of very low and low-income housing. At the same time, the project overshadowed all existing construction and removed all breathing room and green spaces. All Pasadena citizens deserve breathing room and green spaces. The tenants occupying very low, low, and moderate-income units deserve these green spaces and breathing room too. Pasadena must find a development balance where we can provide the homes that people need while at the same time providing the living environment we all love and expect here in Pasadena.

All of Pasadena will be watching the outcome of this project. It will be an important indication of whether Pasadena takes its commitment to thoughtful development and the General Plan seriously, or whether developers can come in and push lucrative projects through the City Council. We ask the City Council to carefully consider whether this project should be put back on the City Council agenda, and, if so, to hold the developer to the goals established by our community. Our city and our citizens deserve this protection.

Thank you,

Rick and Megan Foker

On behalf of Livable Pasadena

08/26/2019
Item 14