

Jomsky, Mark

From: Stacey Fortner <sfortner@me.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 12:22 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Livable Pasadena Statement.pdf
Attachments: Livable Pasadena Statement.pdf

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Hello Mark,
Below please find letter I am supporting. Please add to support of tonight's agenda item.
Thank you
Stacey Fortner
40 Arroyo Dr UNIT 102
Pasadena, CA 91105

Sent from my iPhone



Livable Pasadena is a coalition of residents dedicated to finding a community development balance in Pasadena. Specifically, we are interested in bolstering our green spaces, in preserving our historic architectural heritage, and ensuring that Pasadena continues to be the livable city we love.

Most Pasadenans agree that our city is unique in Southern California. We have a legacy of architectural treasures, many highly regarded educational and cultural institutions, and our green tree canopy is widespread and well established. Pasadena has been built, preserved, and expanded gently through the passion people share for a distinct, livable community - large enough to attract the very best opportunities for schooling, working, shopping, dining and entertainment, but small enough in scale to be accessible.

These goals are imbedded in the city's General Plan and other guiding documents that govern city planning. The city came together to define, as a community, Pasadena's future. We envisioned a city with many distinct areas with their own feel and purpose, but all with family friendly places where we could come together: the Playhouse District, Old Town, South Fair Oaks, and the Central District to name a few. Pasadena should be a place filled with many different types of people, but one in which we all belong to a close-knit community. Yet, Pasadena is growing in ways that threaten to destroy its livability.

The City has not been a good guardian for Pasadena's livability in recent years. Too many projects are getting built by developers focused only on their profitability. Developers are racing to build large scale, high-density projects filled with luxury condominiums and apartments. These projects are quickly being approved while we see no affordable housing for local hardworking employees, schoolteachers, young professionals, technicians, and new families. We need more attention to allowing density only when it fulfills such key goals as architectural excellence, workforce housing, and urban place-making.

Our tree canopy and green spaces are some of the most important parts of our city, and what makes Pasadena so special. Throughout the last several years, however, protected trees have been cut down tree after tree. Pasadena's streets will become unwelcoming concrete deserts if we continue to cut down our urban forest at such a rapid rate.

City leadership appears to have lost sight of what makes our city livable. They are not focused on the effects decisions have on the city as a whole. Instead, the focus for our city leaders seem to be on appeasing developers and generating city income regardless of the long term consequences. Pasadena is facing many issues: traffic, crime, homelessness, loss of green space, and over-development. Our city needs to work for everyone - not just those who push a single agenda the loudest. Decisions need to be made that work for all of Pasadena, with the goal to help Pasadena grow in a balanced way that cares for all of its citizens.

Livable Pasadena is about protecting the small town feel, great neighborhoods, historical architecture, trees and natural setting for all residents. We believe it is time for the residents to take control again. It's time to hold our elected and appointed leaders accountable to the vision incorporated in the General Plan. We need to find our anchor in the vision of our city, and work diligently to achieve this for all Pasadena residents. It is doable. We need our city leaders to protect our city and to guide our growth. It is time to refocus on our General Plan and keep Pasadena livable.

Jomsky, Mark

From: Frances Morrison <francesmorrison@me.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: 253 s los robles

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To whom it may concern,

My husband and I recently visited La Verne California. despite growing up in Pasadena, I had never spent time in towns to the east. We were charmed by the small houses, adorable Main Street, and tree-lined streets. It felt livable, comfortable, and full of history and charm. As we were driving down the street I realized I am already mourning the old Pasadena that I grew up in. With all of the new development and loss of trees, it feels like the Pasadena that I knew is rapidly disappearing.

I implore you to reconsider the plans for 253 S. Los Robles and Arroyo Parkway/California blvd. I suggest that city leaders visit areas that have not yet been overdeveloped to remind them what Pasadena used to feel like. Once the historic charm of the town is lost, it cannot be regained. Pasadena has always been unique in the Los Angeles area but is rapidly losing itself and becoming a carbon copy of bland, newly developed cities.

Please start to consider what we are losing with these developments as much as what is gained.

Sincerely,

Frances Morrison, MD, MPH, MA
Pasadena native



January 13, 2019

Pasadena City Council
City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, California 91101

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CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

RE: Affordable Housing Concession Permit #1869: 253 South Los Robles Avenue

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Pasadena Heritage continues to have concerns about the project at 253 S. Los Robles Avenue because of the impact on traffic in our City's urban core and on adjacent residential neighborhoods. It is important that the City Council fully contemplate the project's impacts tonight in a public forum.

We note that the revised project has some improvements in height, massing and affordability since the project's last iteration. In this latest downscaled version, the affordable housing percentage has actually been improved. While this is a step forward, it also indicates that the concessions and extra units that were indicated as needed to offset the affordable units in the last version were indeed excessive. We also note that these requested concessions are almost in line with the Concession Menu that the City passed in 2019, which we helped to craft.

The major unaddressed issue is the traffic impact, as well as noise, air quality, and public safety that come with additional traffic. With three new large-scale residential projects confined to one block of South Los Robles Avenue added to other major construction in the immediate area, it is clear that there will be a dramatic increase in traffic. This traffic will pour out onto the already clogged arterials of Los Robles, Del Mar, and California. We challenge the project to further mitigate these impacts through exploration of more efficient transportation alternatives including car share for residents, transit passes, or by providing parking off site. Reducing the subterranean parking from three levels to two would decrease building cost and these cost savings could be passed on to future tenants.

We believe that the VMT threshold is set far too high, especially for projects in the Central District, and therefore it is nearly impossible for any project to show a significant traffic impact, though clearly these impacts are real. If the City of Pasadena and the State of California want to incentivize urban infill housing in the urban core, then we should not expect those new urban residents to drive according to existing suburban trends. We appreciate that Transportation Director Laura Comejo will present on VMT methodology

later tonight, and we suggest a reduction of the current threshold. We believe that in the Central District, where there is greater walkability and more transit options, VMT thresholds should be lower than in suburban residential zones. The city's current approach has led to more congestion and less safe conditions for pedestrians, while indirectly increasing the cost of housing.

We ask that the Council tonight review this project not in a vacuum, but with attention to the wider context and trends of the current built environment. We also offer to work with the Planning Department and the Department of Transportation to develop more modern, effective thresholds. Thank you for your consideration and care in reviewing this project.

Sincerely yours,



Susan N. Mossman
Executive Director



Andrew Salimian
Preservation Director

cc: David Reyes
Talyn Mirzakhian
Laura Comejo