



June 14, 2018

Dear Mayor Tornek, City Council Members, Mr. Mermell and Mr. Reyes:

The West Pasadena Residents' Association has been participating within the YWCA/ Civic Center development process since (and before) we presented our first policy letter to City Council on August 1, 2016:

The Board of West Pasadena Residents' Association has voted to take a position on the YWCA/Kimpton Project. Having reviewed the information available to the public, as well as discussing the absence of Kimpton's build and operating expenses withheld from Pasadena's Commissions and residents, we concur that the redesigned preferred Alternative 2A [with 179 to 185 rooms, a new building size of 91,000 Sq/ft. and a 30-40 setback] cannot and should not be evaluated without a thorough explanation describing why the hotel has to be the size it is. Aesthetically the WPRA would prefer a smaller building complex with a deeper setback on Garfield Avenue facing City Hall.

Since then, we have participated in the Civic Center Task Force through its various meetings and through that process, we expanded our policy about the Civic Center Plaza area. The WPRA considers City Hall to be a monumental work of art and no other structures should compete with it in scale, height or importance of place; nor should any new buildings encroach City Hall or crowd it in order to maintain its current open space sightlines and visual impact. With that in mind, the WPRA created the following list of preferred design guidelines:

1. The Julia Morgan YWCA building must be rehabilitated according to the Secretary of Interior standards.
2. The Civic Center Plaza area must be completed as a symmetrical and integrated whole. New building facades on the north and south corners of Holly Street and Garfield Avenue should mirror and complement each other in shape and height, complementing the symmetries of City Hall to create a sense of coherence and harmony.
3. All new buildings should be stylistically compatible with City Hall.
4. All new buildings adjacent to Garfield Avenue, facing City Hall, should be no higher than four stories or 46 feet high.
5. No new structures should be built on the grassy open spaces that currently exist opposite City Hall. The 107-foot setback just west of the Garfield Avenue curbs must remain a parklike setting.
6. Regarding the use of the Civic Center buildings: Try to keep the Civic Center, civic.

The WPRA urges the City Council to take these design parameters under serious consideration. Our Civic Center Plaza and the open spaces around it must stay as they are - wide and deep expanses allowing the means to step away from our striking domed edifice and take in its total majestic tableau.

WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
POST OFFICE BOX 50252 • PASADENA, CA 91115

Thank you for considering our point of view.

Respectfully,



Dan Beal
President
West Pasadena Residents' Association

Distribution:

Mayor Terry Tornek	ttornek@cityofpasadena.net
Councilmember Tyron Hampton	thampton@cityofpasadena.net
Councilmember Margaret McAustin	MMcAustin@cityofpasadena.net
Councilmember John Kennedy	JKennedy@cityofpasadena.net
Councilmember Gene Masuda	GMasuda@cityofpasadena.net
Councilmember Victor Gordo	VGordo@cityofpasadena.net
Councilmember Steve Madison	SMadison@cityofpasadena.net
Councilmember Andy Wilson	AWilson@cityofpasadena.net
City Manager Steve Mermell	smermell@cityofpasadena.net
Council District 6 Liaison Takako Suzuki	tsuzuki@cityofpasadena.net
City Manager Steve Mermell	smermell@cityofpasadena.net
Director of Planning and Development David Reyes	dreyes@cityofpasadena.net

The WPRA is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in southwest Pasadena. We represent 7,000 households, including 1,000 paid members.