

Communication from Public

Name: Jessie Smith-Jones

Date Submitted: 10/27/2020 12:08 PM

Council File No: 00-9999

Comments for Public Posting: Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilmember LA City Planning Department RE: 3475 W Slauson Ave. LA CA 90043 / DIR-2020-4807-TOC-DRB-SPP-HCA We along with CD 8th with stakeholders and residents who are concerned about the future of our neighborhoods and communities. The residents who reside between the 5400 - 5700 block of Brynhurst Avenue are faced with added stress due to a proposed mixed-use development of 63 units on the NE corner of Slauson/Brynhurst Avenues reaching over 55 feet in height. The community expressed layers of adverse consequences to this project during committee meetings and City's Planning Review Board Hearings, so we STRONGLY OPPOSED this project for the following reasons: 1. The proposed development project site (Slauson/Brynhurst) was originally developed in the mid to late 1920s for single-family homes and narrow streets were for the average community size and traffic flow during that era. 2. However, 100 years has past and the community's density size with two vehicles per household has significantly increased the overall congestion of people and vehicles within our community. 3. 63 mixed-use units would negatively impact our community with the probability of 126 added residents seeking parking accommodations at the projected project site. 4. Traffic flow would be impacted negatively due to our narrow streets being overcrowded on Brynhurst and leading into added congestion on Slauson which is our only main thoroughfare for travel. 5. The development is using the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) plan, which is supported by Measure JJJ and Measure H to explain away the necessity for adequate parking. However, our community's personal and daily reality is challenged with seeking parking in adjoining neighborhoods. 6. THE CRENSHAW CORRIDOR SPECIFIC PLAN DESIGN MANUAL is not followed for: GUIDELINE 1. GUIDELINES 1a., and GUIDELINE 3. 7. The development projects presented to our community are not complying with the language used in the Crenshaw Corridor Specific Plan leaving the members of the community to believe that efforts are being made to excavate the efforts made by "Black and Brown" Americans to live in neighboring communities since the late 40s. 8. Developers are required to create up to 20 percent and in some cases 40 percent of affordable housing to help the homeless crisis through

affordable housing. However, this project the mixed-use units will be at “market rates” which does not fulfill the economic needs of our community. 9. The (CEQA) requirements are another tremendous concern for the community. The auto repair shop recently purchased by the developers for this project are suspected to have left behind remnants of hazardous waste requiring extensive clean-up followed by environmental testing to ensure the safety required for human habitation. 10. The infrastructure of the entire community is 100 years old and has already shown signs of extreme deterioration based on pipe explosions from the Crenshaw Rail Line construction and ongoing power outages. Councilmember, we hold you responsible to all the members of the CD 8th and ask that you support us against any proposed development seeking economic gains for themselves and has not conformed to the details in the Crenshaw Corridor Specific Plan that narrates the needs of the community at-large and how their designs and lack of parking provisions will have a negative impact. Also, please consider that the current climate status of our nation as we battle the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic is a very stressful time in our history that could increase by a strong probability of 126 persons added residents sharing a ventilation system expelling air into the environment of a small community radius. It is imperative that we have an opportunity to engage in productive dialogue that will move us forward and benefit our community as stated in the Crenshaw Corridor Specific Plan. Measure JJJ and Measure H were voted on by Californians to help families in need of affordable housing and avoid added homelessness. The development projects presented to this community have revealed deviant objectives by avoiding insight from the “community” itself. Our challenge is not a housing shortage but rather a need for purposeful affordable housing with realistic commercial benefits to the existing community, including the 30% working hours for the immediate radius of residents affected. Dialogue should include that the character of our community remains the same. Until we can schedule these discussions a “moratorium” to insure future developments in the Park Mesa Heights communities are completely addressed. Please consider, Jessie

Communication from Public

Name: Natalie Castaneda

Date Submitted: 10/27/2020 12:31 PM

Council File No: 00-9999

Comments for Public Posting: Hello My name is Natalie Castaneda and I would like to give general Public comment. Hello, Councilmembers I currently reside in the San Fernando valley. I am a social worker that has dedicated my career to advocate for youth and create change in systems that have been influenced to fail them. I have experienced these barriers in our systems that have contributed to racial inequality, homelessness and even community violence. We need a stand-alone Youth Development Department that is focused on youth, that gives youth power and the voice to influence the types of programs the city funds. It is disheartening to see how the current climate of today is easily convinced to silence the voices of our youth by saying we know what's best for them. When in reality, we don't, they do! Their voices need to be heard and they deserve to be a part of a system that supports them not restricts them. investing in a youth development department can provide a safety net that has been missing in our communities for so many years.

Communication from Public

Name: David Ewing

Date Submitted: 10/27/2020 11:03 PM

Council File No: 00-9999

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Councilmembers: I planned to write a letter in support of this motion, but I don't think I can do better than what I wrote for the Cultural Heritage Commission when this went to them in 2018. I've attached it here as a PDF. However, times have changed since then, and there is now a greater urgency and understanding that Black history has been cheated for the entire lifespan of our country, and Los Angeles has been far from immune. That process is ongoing and blatant in Venice, where the area known as Oakwood continues to be gentrified out from under the community of color whose forebears built it, both physically and spiritually. I also you'll take to heart a quote from longtime West Los Angeles Area Planning Commissioner, Esther Margulies, at a recent hearing about a project bordering Oakwood: "...I think we need to start realizing, and we need our City Planning department to support us in looking at Venice for what it is. It is a Special Coastal Community, and since last spring, we've also been made aware that it's not only a Special Coastal Community for everyone, this is the last remaining Black American historic coastal community on the west coast. And we as the City of Los Angeles should have a duty to protect, to respect and keep that alive. And these paper cuts, these thousand paper cuts, each one....is harmful. We have to ask ourselves at some point, why is this happening? Really, when it comes down to it there is a power imbalance in Venice of gentrifying forces, because the people who originally settled and built this place were denied the access to capital, education, and other resources to buy those properties and to be the people who would determine their future. This is really what the Environmental Justice aspect of the Coastal Commission and Coastal Act needs to be, and without specific guidance from them we're in a position where either we need to take the lead on this, actually I think we need to take the lead on this and we need to be telling the state what we need to do in Venice. And it's not going to be the other way around. They're looking for us to lead on this." Amen. If Black Lives Matter, then it's undeniable that Black History Matters, and Black Communities Matter, because they're the fabric into which Black Lives are woven.

Sept. 27th, 2018

**First Baptist Church of Venice, 685 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291
CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE,**

Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

Please designate First Baptist Church of Venice as a Historic Cultural Monument.

The history of the African-American community on the Westside of Los Angeles (including Venice and Santa Monica) and the role of the African American in developing Venice is inextricably the history of the First Baptist Church of Venice.

History is not just about the past. It's the body of roots that nourish our present and our future. There is no future without a past. Social amnesia depletes the present of its richness and meaning. When we fail to honor our past, we live in denial and ignorance. When we allow our history to be erased, we give up our birthright, our understanding of who we are in the time and place we occupy.

Please do not allow the acquisitive heedlessness of wealth and privilege to efface the rich history of the African Americans who migrated here over a hundred years ago, in the great migration from the Jim Crow South, to build their families and community, as well as Abbot Kinney's dream of a "Venice of America."

That history matters. The First Baptist Church of Venice stands as a monument to it. The historic African American community is in the process of being torn apart, the real estate bought up by wealthy newbies eager to live in trendy Venice. Converting the community's most prominent symbol into a mansion would turn it into a very different symbol: a powerful symbol of the displacement and destruction of that historic community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ewing', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Ewing
1234 Preston Way,
Venice, CA 89291