

ORDINANCE NO. 178400

An urgency ordinance, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65858, establishing a temporary moratorium on the issuance of building and demolition permits for properties within a portion of the Wilshire Community Plan known as Windsor Square generally bounded by Beverly Boulevard on the north, both sides of Arden Boulevard on the west, both sides of Van Ness Avenue on the east, and the rear property lines of the commercially zoned properties along Wilshire Boulevard on the south, but excluding commercially and multiple family – R3 zoned lots.

WHEREAS, the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, ruled that the City of Los Angeles set aside and vacate its decision to approve the Windsor Square Historic resources Survey and adopt the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone and Preservation Plan, because the City failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act in the adoption of the Windsor Square Historic Overlay Zone; and

WHEREAS, this court decision will leave Windsor Square one of the richest collections of Period Revival architecture in Southern California vulnerable to demolition and irreversible alterations that could adversely impact the character of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, a certified historic consultant determined that 1,104 out of 1,239 parcels in Windsor Square were historically significant and “added to the historic architectural qualities or historic associations for which these properties are significant because they were present during the period of significance, and possess historic integrity reflecting its character at that time”; and

WHEREAS, this urgency ordinance is consistent with the goals and objectives of the General Plan’s conservation and housing element to “protect important cultural and historical sites and resources for historical, cultural, research, and community education purposes and to identify and protect architecturally and historically significant residences and neighborhoods”; and

WHEREAS, there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare because knowledge that the Windsor Square HPOZ is no longer in effect may drive some owners and developers to obtain building and demolition permits until the Windsor Square HPOZ and Preservation Plan is re-adopted effectively accelerating the destruction of historically and architecturally significant structures in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has decided to study the appropriate level of environmental review necessary to re-certify the Windsor Square Historic Resources Survey and re-adopt the Windsor Square Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) and Preservation Plan and in doing so requires more time to complete the study and analysis and re-process the HPOZ and Preservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, in re-processing the Windsor Square Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, the City of Los Angeles plans to remove all R3 multiple family zoned lots from the proposed HPOZ in order to negate any potential impact on a significant component of multiple family housing; and

WHEREAS, it is urgent to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by immediately preventing demolitions and alterations that could result in the loss of historically important resources and stopping incompatible new construction that could jeopardize the overall character of the Windsor Square neighborhood until the revisions to the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone can be considered.

NOW THEREFORE,

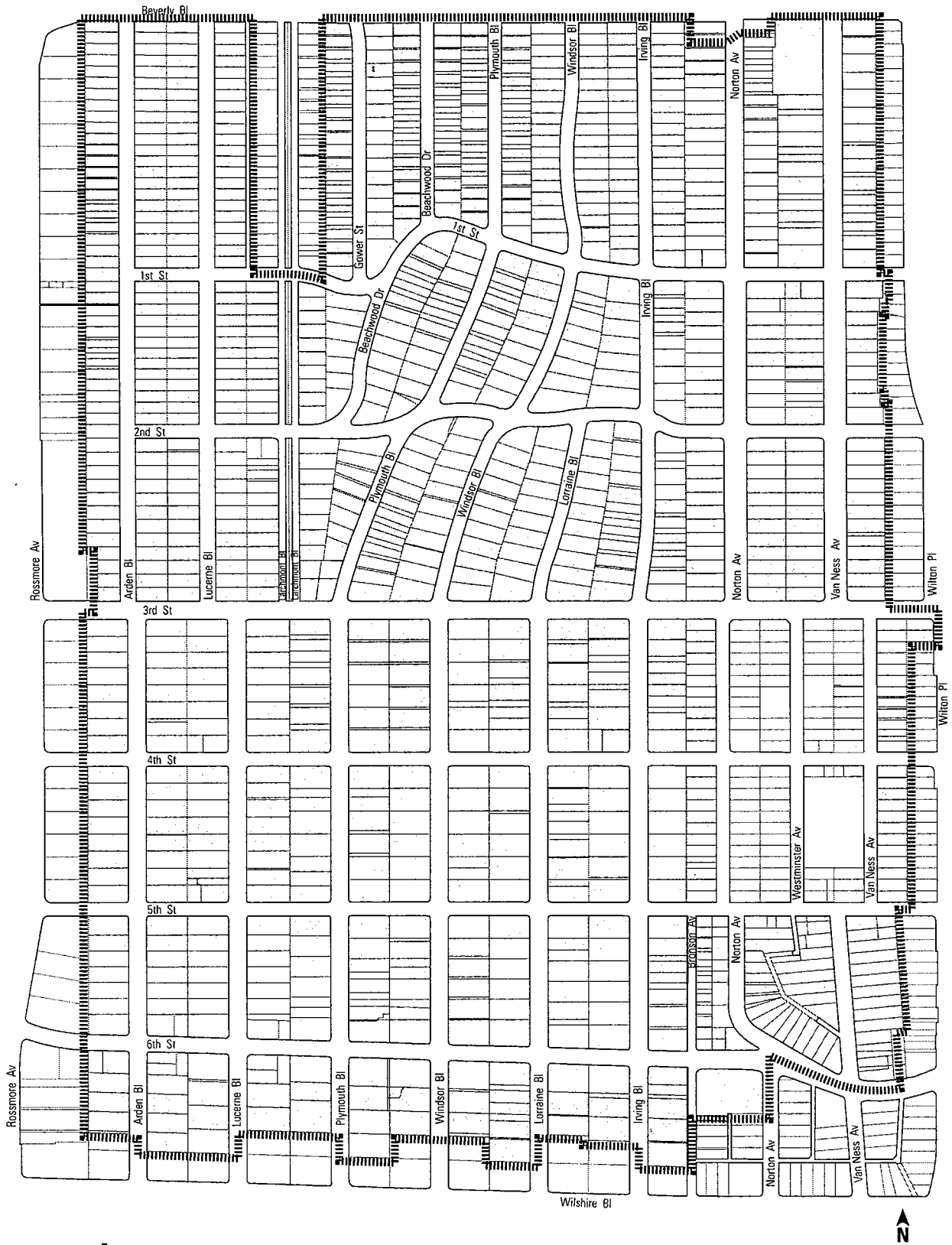
**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. DEFINITIONS. The following words and phrases, whenever used in this Ordinance, shall be construed as defined in this section. Words and Phrases not defined here shall be construed as defined in Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 12.03 and 12.20.3 B.

PROJECT. The erection, construction, demolition, addition to, or alteration of a building or structure, or removal of an exterior feature of any building or structure on any lot located in whole or in part in the area identified in Section 3 of this ordinance. The term "Project" shall not include interior remodeling, which does not affect any exterior feature.

Sec. 2. PROHIBITION. In accordance with California Government Code Section 65858, no building or demolition permit for a Project shall be issued for period of 45 days from the date of adoption of this ordinance unless the ordinance is extended by the City Council in accordance with the terms and provisions of Government Code Section 65858.

Sec. 3. INTERIM CONTROL AREA. The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to any lot in whole or in part within the Windsor Square area as shown on the following map:



Proposed
WINDSOR SQUARE
 Historical Preservation Overlay Zone Boundaries

Prepared by City of Los Angeles Planning Department • Graphic Services Section • February, 2007

- Proposed HPOZ Area
- Proposed HPOZ Boundary
- Not in Boundary

Sec. 4. EXCEPTIONS.

- A. The prohibition specified in Section 2 of this ordinance shall not apply to any construction for which a building permit or demolition permit is required:
 - 1. In order to comply with an order issued by the Department of Building and Safety to repair or demolish an unsafe or substandard condition;
 - 2. In order to rebuild as a result of destruction by fire, earthquake or other natural disaster, provided that the development is not prohibited by any provision of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

- B. The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to the issuance of a building permit within the Proposed Windsor Square HPOZ:
 - 1. If architectural and structural plans sufficient for a complete plan check were accepted by the Department of Building and Safety prior to the effective date of the ordinance; and
 - 2. If a plan check fee was collected prior to the effective date of the ordinance; and
 - 3. If no subsequent changes are made to those plans, which increase or decrease the height, floor area or occupant load by more than five percent.

- C. The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to the issuance of a building permit for interior remodeling of a legally constructed building or structure, which does not affect any exterior feature.

- D. The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to rehabilitation work that is consistent with the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation as determined by the Director of Planning.

Sec. 5. EXTENSION OF REGULATIONS. The City Council may extend this ordinance in accordance with the provisions of California Government Code Section 65858.

Sec. 6. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT. The proposed ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), pursuant to Article II, Section 2 (m), of the City's Guidelines and Section 15061 (b)(3) of the State's Guidelines in that it is only a temporary moratorium on the issuance of building and demolition permits, which will not result in impact on the physical environment.

Sec. 7. APPLICABILITY OF THE ZONING CODE. The regulations of this ordinance are in addition to those set forth in the planning and zoning provisions of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code and any other ordinances and do not contain any rights not otherwise granted under the provisions and procedures contained in that Chapter or any other ordinances.

Sec. 8. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this ordinance is found to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, that invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this ordinance, which can be implemented without the invalid provisions, and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

Sec. 9. URGENCY CLAUSE. The City Council finds and declares that this ordinance, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65858, is required because there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare for the following reasons:

- A. In the past, the City has received several permit applications for the development of property within Windsor Square when no restrictions were in place. In a single year between 2001-2002, 82 building alteration and addition permits and four demolition permits were issued in Windsor Square. It is likely that the Court's ruling and knowledge that the City's plans to re-adopt the Windsor Square HPOZ will drive some owners and developers to obtain building permits to demolish or substantially alter historically significant structures.
- B. If this ordinance is not immediately adopted, the continued application for building alteration, addition, and demolition permits could result in the loss of irreplaceable historically significant structures, thereby rendering ineffective the HPOZ and Preservation Plan meant to preserve these resources.
- C. Unless this ordinance is passed, Windsor Square would be vulnerable to incompatible construction that would create an unsightly patchwork of design and scale, jeopardizing the overall character of the neighborhood. This threatened problem is particularly true in Windsor Square, where approximately 89% of the structures are historically intact. Every time construction is incompatible with the scale, massing, development pattern, or design of the neighborhood, it tends to have an even more dramatic impact on the overall character of the community.
- D. This ordinance would not only protect a local historic resource, but also an important historic, cultural, and economic resource for the entire City of Los Angeles. Windsor Square was one of the first planned communities in Los Angeles with consistent street grid pattern, street lighting and setbacks. However, unlike today's planned communities, each home was uniquely designed in a myriad of predominantly Period Revival styles including Spanish Colonial, Tudor, English, French, Mediterranean, and Italianate. This fact has attracted many people from all over to move into Windsor Square, resulting in

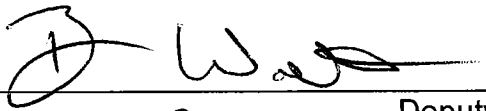
inflating home values. Windsor Square is also home to the City's Mayoral residence, one of the few Mayoral residences remaining in the United States. Moreover, Windsor Square due to its historic character is a favorite filming location, helping retain film production, an economic benefit, in the City.

- E. The adoption of this ordinance will enable the City to conduct the necessary environmental review to re-process the Windsor Square HPOZ and Preservation Plan, thereby preventing the demolition or alteration of irreplaceable structures that would permanently change the character of the Windsor Square neighborhood and undermine the stated goals of the General and Community Plans of "preserving and enhancing neighborhoods having a distinctive and significant historical character" and developing a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone for the Windsor Square neighborhood."

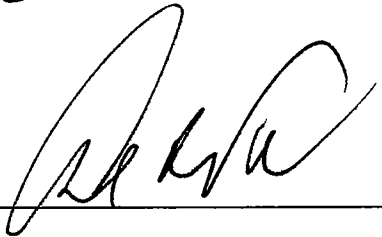
Sec. 10. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, by a vote of not less than four-fifths of all of its members, at its meeting of FEB 07 2007.

FRANK T. MARTINEZ, City Clerk


By  Deputy

Approved FEB 15 2007


Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO, City Attorney

By 
TERRY KAUFMANN MACIAS
Deputy City Attorney

Date: FEB 02 2007

File No. CF 07-0354