

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 05/07/2026 12:18 AM

Council File No: 26-0047

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable City Council Members on the PLUM Committee: I am a retired principal city planner, who worked on the Downtown Bunker Hill, Central Business District, and Little Tokyo Redevelopment Projects for a period of 31 years. For the past 12 years, I have been a volunteer consultant on planning and design issues for the Little Tokyo Community. I believe the 4th & Central Cold Storage Project high towers and density will have a negative impact on historic Little Tokyo. However, I predict that because of the strong need for housing, the City Council will approve the project. The future of historic Little Tokyo is fragile. In 2024, the National Trust for Historic Preservation added Little Tokyo to its list of 11 most endangered places in all of America. The most damaging element in the 4th & Central Project is the tallest 30-story tower proposed on the same block as Little Tokyo uses: 1-story Centenary Church and 3-story Little Tokyo Market Place. The 30-story tower and over 6:1 FAR density will stand out, be completely out of scale, and overwhelm the Little Tokyo uses on the same block and the over all 3:1 FAR density of the Little Tokyo Village. The damaging effect will cause gentrification of the existing Little Tokyo uses on the block and nearby areas. Please don't let this happen to fragile historic Little Tokyo! In your approval of the 4th & Central Project, please add an amendment or at the very least a strong recommendation that the 30-story tower and high density be reduced to be more compatible with the historic Little Tokyo uses. Thank you for your consideration. Yukio Kawaratani