



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

May 17, 2017

Vince Bertoni, Director of Planning
Los Angeles Department of City Planning
West LA Area City Planning Commission
200 N. Spring Street, #721
Los Angeles, CA 90011

Re: Case No. DIR-2015-1282-DRB-SPP-1A; Opposition to Approval of Signage 881 Alma Real Dr. 90272

Dear Director Bertoni and West LA Area Planning Commission,

At our last meeting of the PPCC, on May 11th, we unanimously passed a statement of opposition to the above mentioned sign, which has been approved, against the weight of local input, by operation of law based on application of the Permit Streamlining Act, by the Los Angeles Superior Court (BS164586; March 29, 2017).

The Palisades community has opposed this application for prominent signage through the determination issued by our Design Review Board in March 2016, and again through the voice of the Community Council in a letter dated July 18, 2016. Further, Palisadians have now voiced their dismay with the failure of the Planning Department to issue its final determination in a timely manner – a failure which has led to an outcome that effectively set aside the authority of our community Specific Plan, dismissed our collective local input and boldly negated our voice, which was discharged responsibly, thoughtfully and timely, though our various local organizations, tasked with preserving the local character of our community.

I have asked our City Councilman, Mike Bonin, to act on our behalf and implore the City Attorney to appeal the ruling of the Superior Court, and have further asked the City to elucidate for us *concrete* steps they plan to take in order to guard against any such operation of law in the future, upending the concept of local control, and effectively setting all communities on a slippery slope that would surrender them to City Planning inaction and operation of law which usurps their voice. I caution you all that letting this ruling stand without a challenge will lead to mounting instances where applicants would use delay tactics to reach an outcome which awards them that which they seek, without the inconvenience of having to acknowledge the will of the community.

We must, as a City family, come together to maintain, indeed defend, the model of communities having meaningful input in the way the City manages and shapes their environs.

Thank you and best,

Maryam Zar
PPCC Chair

Cc: Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles; Hon. Mike Bonin, City Councilman, CD 11, LA City Council (by email)