OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA
COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 30, 2010

TO: Mayor Jerry Sanders

FROM: Councilmember Todd Gloria
Land Use and Housing Committee Chairman

SUBJECT: Demolition of Historical Resources

I was saddened to learn about the demolition of one of San Diego's historic resources, the Ford dealership building located at 1015 Park Boulevard. This 1930s era building designed by renowned architect Walter Dorwin Teague was one of San Diego's few remaining commercial buildings in the art deco style.

While it has been noted that this demolition was somewhat unique due to the building's owner, the Salvation Army, being considered a religious organization, it seems that additional steps could have been taken in the attempt prevent the loss of this historic structure.

What is particularly distressing to many members of the community is the lack of notification leading up to the issuance of the demolition permit. At the September 23, 2009 meeting of the Land Use and Housing Committee concerning the demolition of potentially historic resources, City staff agreed to the condition in the Committee's motion that no demolition permit process would exclude community notification and input. While appropriate members of the community were consulted on the historic merits of the building in July, 2009, there was no notification as the demolition permit was finalized in June, 2010.

I am also concerned that City staff have not yet submitted a written response to the LU&H requests from the September 23, 2009 meeting. At that meeting, staff committed to preparing a written response to the Committee's requests by December, 2009. Nearly one year later, after a memo from me dated December 2, 2009 (attached) and continuous inquiries by my staff as to its status, the official response has not been received.

August 30, 2010, Cont.

Given the inadequate level of community notification in the demolition of the Ford dealership building, as well as the lack of a formal response to the Land Use and Housing Committee motion from September 23, 2009, I will again docket the matter of demolition of potentially historic structures at the September 15 meeting of the Land Use and Housing Committee. I am requesting that City staff be prepared to give an update on the status of changes that were previously requested by the Committee, as well as an assessment of the notification process for the Ford dealership building demolition permit and ways that the process might be improved.

CC: Members of the Land Use and Housing Committee
Bill Anderson, City Planning and Community Investment Department Director
Kelly Broughton, Development Services Department Director
Phil Rath, Policy Advisor to Mayor Jerry Sanders
Deputy City Attorney Elise Cusato