

ATTACHMENT C



LITTLE ITALY RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED FIREHOUSE AT PACIFIC HIGHWAY AND CEDAR STREETS

Recommendation made by the LIA Sidewalk Operations, Beautification and Order (SOBO) Committee, January 15, 2010

Adopted by the LIA Board of Directors on February 2, 2010

At its January 15, 2010 meeting, the SOBO Committee discussed the location and implementation of the proposed Fire station at Pacific Highway and Cedar Streets. While the LIA is fully supportive of any and all efforts to ensure public safety, we believe that the location and logistics of this proposed new fire station are extremely problematic to the Little Italy Community, the adjacent hotels and the County employee parking circulation. Therefore, we submit the following resolution for consideration to the Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, the CCDC has agreed to fund the proposed fire station to be built "on the bayside of the railroad tracks" for public emergency purposes; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Fire station location is replacing a business and property that is currently paying sales taxes and property taxes to the City of San Diego and the replacement of the Fire station will do neither; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the majority of calls, up to 90% of this new station's calls will be for airport related health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the over 10 acre SD Fire Dept facility just west of Lindbergh Field on Harbor Drive have adequate room for the construction a similar fire station, is on the bayside of the railroad tracks and would be closer to the main generator of the calls for services at the airport; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Pacific Highway and Cedar is perhaps the most congested intersection in the Downtown with ongoing rail traffic including Amtrak, the Coaster, BNSF freight trains and the Trolley shutting down California Street and Cedar multiple times per hour, every day; and

WHEREAS, the 10 – 12,000 square foot lot suggested for placement of this fire station is wholly inadequate for the ingress and egress of fire trucks at that station, which includes 2 floors of subterranean parking; and

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WHEREAS, the site is currently a contaminated site and the mitigation and cleanup of that site is a cost that must be borne by the CCDC;

WHEREAS, the LIA member adjacent hotels on Pacific Highway have had to contend with freight train whistles over the past ten years and the new fire station would simply aggravate this noise problem and led to reduced sales and occupancy;

WHEREAS, virtually no input has been solicited from the potentially affected residents from the Camden Tuscan, Kettner Row Homes, Metro Lofts, Allegro Towers, Village Walk, Villa Maria and Porto Siena developments; and

WHEREAS, at a public meeting held by CCDC on Saturday January 9th, over 50 concerned residents showed up and expressed concerns about noise and traffic issues; and

WHEREAS, the superior location to place such a station, as recommended by LIA staff for the past 3 years, would have been at a similar sized lot at Juniper and Pacific Highway, if not the Harbor Drive facility; and

WHEREAS, the City just announced on January 27th that they will need to cut 11.5 million dollars from the Fire Dept budget this year which will result in reducing service levels at 13 fire houses (two in Downtown) and a 13% reduction in fire crews, simply to meet this year's budget needs, and

WHEREAS, the City does not have the personnel, nor will it have the personnel in the foreseeable future to staff this new station; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego seeks to relocate up to 700 cars from the current County parking lots to the County owned property at Kettner and Cedar creating a massive circulation problem when a proposed fire house, multiple passenger and freight train crossings and ingress and egress of the Camden Tuscan and County Parking structure will all occur within a 400 foot stretch of Cedar Street between Pacific Highway and Kettner Blvd. and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Cedar and California Street will be undergoing extensive construction in the coming two years due to the implementation of the Quiet Zone retrofitting process,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Board of Directors of the Little Italy Association will communicate to the Mayor, City Councilman Faulconer, the CCDC and the adjacent business and property owners that it recommends that the CCDC take a "go slow" approach

on the construction of the proposed bayside fire station at Pacific Highway and Kettner until such time that:

- a. The quiet zone construction project has been completely implemented;
- b. Alternative sites, including Juniper and Pacific Highway have been seriously re-visited as potential sites;
- c. The Fire Dept. property just west of Lindbergh Field is investigated as a new potential site for the bayside fire station;
- d. The County of San Diego determines if it is going to relocate its parking at the Kettner and Cedar site;
- e. All other fire stations have been brought back to full staffing throughout the City.

Resolved and adopted on this date, February 2, 2010 by the Little Italy Association of San Diego



Steven J. Galasso
President
Little Italy Association

February 2, 2010
Date