

Letters to the City Council regarding Items 6A and 7B on the City Council Meeting Agenda of March 10, 2020

Item 6A

[Appeal 19ENT-0423 of the Landmarks Commission's determination to approve Application 19ENT-0281 designating the single-unit residential property located at 1531 Georgina Avenue as a City Landmark and associated Landmark Parcel.](#)

The NOMA Board opposes the proposed action by the staff to grant the appeal of 1531 Georgina for Landmark Status. The Landmarks Commission thoroughly researched and vetted this treasure and the Council should accept their recommendation.

The Landmark Committee has studied this issue in great detail. In an age of top-down government decision-making, we urge you to uphold the decisions made by your Landmark Commission and strengthen Santa Monica's institutions, rather than undermine them.

Lastly, while Santa Monica does not yet have a private tree ordinance there is a magnificent tree in the front yard that would be removed if the demolition permit is allowed to go forward.

Thank you,

The NOMA Board

Item 7 B

The proposed amendments to the LUCE, BAP, and DCP will allow 100% affordable housing projects and HAA-compliant housing projects up to Tier 2 maximums to be approved through an administrative process.

NOMA opposes this staff recommendation in that it does not provide for input by the Planning Commission or City Council on issues that residents have regarding these developments.

Input from the public should be welcomed by our City not feared. Public input offers valuable insight into the neighborhood and the issues it faces that the Planning Commission or City Council may not be aware of. This input could increase the quality of the project and make it more welcomed in the community.

Alternatively, not allowing residents to participate in major decisions about their neighborhoods is undemocratic. It will also cause resentment.

The Well Being Index has shown that residents believe they do not have influence in City decisions. If you approve these amendments the City will take away another avenue for residents to participate in the decision-making process of their City.

Stakeholders spent thousand of hours developing the LUCE, Bergamot Area Plan and DCP. The City Council should not, with a stroke of a pen, override all the work and effort that was put into those documents.

Shutting out resident voices is wrong, shortsighted and unfair. We urge you to not do it. Please reject this proposal.

Thank you,

The NOMA Board