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1 message

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TO Alejandro Huerta:

As a kid growing up in Hollywood, I used to walk by "Crossroads of the World" on Sunset Blvd. pretty much every school day. Today, that iconic cultural monument is being considered for an upgrade called "Crossroads Hollywood" into a modern development bringing high rises, commercial shops, bars, and restaurants to the quaint little courtyard and pedestrian walkways that stood beautifully since it was built in 1936. Unfortunately, a number of the cultural monument buildings are scheduled to be demolished.

Last week I attended the Hollywood Neighborhood Council Planning and Land Use Committee Meeting at the Ivar Library. Developers for "Crossroads Hollywood" were there to explain how they planned to "revitalize" this City treasure.

They described how office buildings several stories high would be built in an area that accommodates much smaller structures. They described the number of parking spaces afforded to visitors which would not be sufficient to park the hundreds of cars entering and exiting the development.

Speaking on behalf of the residents who would be evicted from the few residential buildings that are destined to be demolished was a representative from the LA Tenants Union, Susan Hunter, and for geological explanations, engineer Tom Williams. Tom explained that the geological underpinnings of the soil structure could result in an extremely tall building keeling over in an earthquake because the foundation pylons cannot be anchored to bedrock.

84 RSO residential units are slated to be lost, and those tenants are about to be evicted. Rather than give those tenants monetary compensation as provided by the Ellis Act, the developers are offering 4 months free rent in lieu of cash which gives the tenants far less compensation than they would have had if the developers were following the law.

This development is an oversized, gargantuan set of structures that would dwarf surrounding buildings. The parking provided for the number of commercial and retail spaces is not nearly enough and the traffic surrounding, entering and exiting the development will tax the already crowded streets of Hollywood. Developers hope that the Metro station several blocks away at Hollywood and Highland will bring guests as pedestrians instead of in cars, but the likelihood of that is low.

This is a monstrosity of a development. Revitalization is one thing, but squeezing large structures into small spaces, creating a traffic nightmare, evicting tenants from RSO units, and not fully explaining earthquake hazards is not a responsible way to revitalize an iconic landmark like Crossroads of the World.

Thank you.

Jane Demian

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