Public Comment Received for:

Item B: 812 Garden Street

(PLN2021-00479)

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<th>Name of Sender</th>
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<td>1. Susan Shields</td>
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<td>2. Paulina Conn</td>
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Mayor & City Council, City of Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

Re: planned hotel development at 812 Garden Street

It appears that, regardless of any concerns that the nearby community may have about this project, this development will go forward now that the HLC has approved it. However, I would like to make a final statement on this issue.

No consideration has been given at all to the fact that this hotel will overlook a senior housing complex at Laguna Cottages which houses 58 residents. Because of the fact that both properties fall within the same zone and the hotel is an allowed use, there was no requirement to notify the neighbors or to solicit public input. Consequently the news about it did not reach the residents until a few weeks ago, with no possibility of submitting any comments. Many of the residents by the way only speak Spanish. The little blue card that finally appeared was only in English. This whole project seems to be shrouded in a cloud of obscurity. Yet there are many reasons why it is not an appropriate use of the property.

We understand that the hotel will not have a manager on-site. This appears to contravene the requirement (Caretaker law) that a hotel with 12 or more rooms have a manager, as does Laguna Cottages. With no manager, who will police the behavior of the hotel guests? There will undoubtedly be noise (e.g. music) and disturbances. Regarding parking: there are no on-site parking spaces for visitors at Laguna Cottages, so we are obliged to search the neighborhood for parking which at times entails driving around a few blocks. Many of the residents at Laguna Cottages do not drive so they are dependent on their visitors. Many spend much of their time at home, so peace and quiet are paramount.

The driveway into the hotel parking is one lane, limiting the ingress and egress of two vehicles at the same time and causing a traffic hazard on De La Guerra Street. The four residents whose apartments are adjacent to that driveway will have to put up with constant traffic. This brings up another point: After the building next door was emptied, some kind of reconstruction or partial teardown was initiated throughout the building. My friend who lives adjacent to it was made miserable by this work which continued intermittently for a year and a half, even on Saturdays, causing terrible noise and dust. It was often impossible to sit outside. The work never seemed to be finished. Now, if remodeling goes on in this building again, it will result in more of the same disturbances to the peacefulness of the complex.

Which brings me to my main point. It seems that the city does not have much consideration for its indigent elderly population, who rely on the community for their support and protection. This is nothing but a form of ageism. As an older person myself, I find this cuts very deeply.

Yours truly,

Susan Shields

cc. Historic Landmarks Commission
Dear Historic Landmarks Commission,

March 2, 2022 Agenda. Should 812 Garden St. come to you again, this should be housing not hotel. Parking is inadequate for hotel. Non-supervision seems wrong. Senior housing is right next door. Exterior changes seem fine.

March 30, 2022 Consent Agenda. 1100 E. Cabrillo Blvd. I do not know enough to know if the general Olmsted Brothers design concept has been retained through the years. I hope so. I much prefer natural looking hardscape to cement for around this refuge. Can something be done for ADA that is nicer looking than gray cement?

If the filtering things will be invisible by design or by plantings that will be good. I hope all of this is being done to reduce the odor during the stagnant water season.

March 30, 2022 Agenda. 931 Anacapa St. Union Bank ADA Ramp. If the current sandstone wall is real then in order to make an ADA ramp, whatever new stonework is done has to be real too not a veneer. You can feel and see the difference. The original Santa Barbara Bank and Trust building materials and method need to be adhered to. Much of the paseos are the old flagstone. Others are the old interesting cement in colors and shapes. Let’s keep these bits of Santa Barbara history including the ATM wall wall materials or whatever it is that Union Bank is trying to change.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Paulina Conn
2612 Foothill Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105