

MISSION HILLS  TOWN COUNCIL

November 30, 2018

Councilmember Chris Ward
City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 10-A
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Old Mission Hills Branch Library - 925 W. Washington Street, San Diego, CA 92103

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the use of the old Mission Hills Branch Library property. Based on community input, the Mission Hills Town Council Board of Trustees recommends the following:

- Preserve the building as it exists and adaptively reuse for active public or business use.
- Site should provide parking for the fire station.

The Mission Hills community would like to see a well-lit, high use building to maintain the safety of the area. Further, any proposed future development (such as business or mixed-use with ground floor retail, restaurant or office/co-working space with extended hours) should preserve the original architectural intent by maintaining the existing façade and also be compatible with the historic character of the neighborhood.

We would also like to express our concerns regarding the security and maintenance of the property once it is vacated. As you may recall, the derelict building that existed at the site of the new Mission Hills Branch Library was a blight upon Mission Hills for several years. Beyond its run down and vacant appearance, the exterior maintenance of the property was badly neglected which led to high volume of trash around the perimeter, poor exterior lighting, and constant problems with homeless gaining access to the building. As such, that property was a nuisance and a safety concern to the Mission Hills community. Should these same problems occur at the soon to be vacant property, its proximity to the Washington Avenue canyon and it's already existing homeless issues, essentially guarantee an even bigger problem for our community.

With the above concerns in mind, we are requesting that once the property is vacated, the City ensure that the building is fully secured, properly lighted, and regularly maintained. It is our hope that if those steps are taken and the nearby fire station personnel utilize the property for parking, we will not see a repeat of the problems this community experienced with the previous building that existed at the sight of the new Mission Hills Branch Library.

We welcome any other opportunities to provide input on the future use of the "old" Mission Hills Branch library property or any Request for Proposal process.

Sincerely,



Anthony Nyikos
President, Mission Hills Town Council

CC: Daniel Geddis, Mission Hills Business Improvement District
Jim Reily, President, Mission Hills Heritage