



August 11, 2019

Mayor Kevin Faulconer
City of San Diego
202 C Street, 11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: "Old Mission Hills Library" Permanent Supportive Housing Proposal

Dear Mayor Faulconer,

Our organization's responsibility is to represent the "voice and vision" of the neighborhood. Hundreds of neighbors recently attended a Town Hall meeting focused on Permanent Supportive Housing and your May 7, 2019 news release regarding the plans for the old Mission Hills library. In addition to the feedback we received at the meeting, we have received dozens of emails regarding the proposal, and we appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the plan.

The Mission Hills Town Council would like to see this supportive housing project succeed while also honoring the wishes and concerns of the community in which it will be situated. The community has voiced the sentiments that Permanent Supportive Housing for a senior and/or veteran population is more conducive to a site situated in a pivotal area of our small community near several schools and a public park. Additionally, Mission Hills residents have requested the first floor be used commercially.

The community also has concerns about the current security and maintenance of the Old Library site, now that the building is vacant. In an effort to avoid a derelict building in the main commercial core of the neighborhood, we are requesting that the City of San Diego ensure that the area is fully secured, properly lighted, and regularly maintained throughout the RFP process and subsequent development.

Our initial recommendations for the site included preserving and adaptively reusing it for active public use or business use; any proposed future development should preserve the original architectural intent and maintain the existing façade if possible, and a sufficient number of dedicated parking spots should be provided for the firefighters of Station 8.

The Town Council Board of Trustees is open to discuss how to align the intentions of the project with the deep concerns of some in the neighborhood. Keeping these considerations in mind as the Request for Proposal process moves forward would help create a collaborative community spirit important for the success of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Shuchter".

Leah Shuchter
President
Mission Hills Town Council