

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Linda Becker

**Date Submitted:** 05/19/2023 11:43 AM

**Council File No:** 22-0617

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Linda Becker and I am a 3rd generation stakeholder and business owner in the LA Fashion District. Please do NOT approve of PLUM's recommendations as they stand. They are flawed and will have grave consequences for our city. Do NOT make the same mistakes we did 60 years ago when we created SKID ROW. A "Ghetto" that is doomed to fail its inhabitants. For over 90 years, my family has had a presence in Downtown Los Angeles working and building their businesses. The story of my family is like those of many others that have witnessed a successful historical growth because of the ability to adapt to market changes. Such as the Santee Alleys, which were manufacturing spaces that transitioned to a retail area with the highest pedestrian counts in all the city. That same flexibility allowed for changing the use of manufacturing spaces into the largest flower market in the United States. We did the same over 25 years ago when the garment industry was dwindling in numbers and my father and uncle needed to close their sewing machine company after 50 years in business due to decreased sales. Recently we have lost most of our tenants due to the passing of SB62. They were sewing jobbers who lost their contracts with manufacturers because Los Angeles became too expensive to continue producing their clothing here. You're trying to preserve an industry on the one hand and helping to destroy it on the other hand. The two don't jive. Please don't tie our hands. I am here today to urge you to maintain flexibility that will support a positive economic growth in our piece of Downtown Los Angeles as you have for the rest of the city. We are in a housing crisis and all areas of downtown should be given the opportunity to address this issue. You've already approved other housing and adaptive reuse within the eastern section of the Fashion District but with this plan you are making it infeasible to do so. Please also allow owners to regain portions of their properties that they were forced to relinquish to the city in the 70's for potential widening of the street. When developing these properties, the city required that we forfeit a portion of the properties in order to obtain building permits. The widening of these streets (Wall St. and San Pedro St and perhaps others) never happened and will never happen. Please don't make us have to pay to get those portions of our property back from the city. They should be returned to us, no fees

attached. Thanking you in advance for considering the needs of all of your citizens, not just the groups that make the most noise. Hoping you will make the right decisions that will help our great city continue to prosper, grow and adapt to the changing times now and in the future.