

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kim Cooper  
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**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmembers, I wish it to be entered into the public record that emails from 2017 exist, released in response to a California Public Records Act request, that show the offices of PLUM Committee members Jose Huizar and Gil Cedillo colluding to bring supporters of the Go For Broke monument housing project and other Little Tokyo stakeholders to City Hall to testify in opposition to the landmarking, preservation and adaptive reuse of Parker Center, aka the Police Facilities Building (Welton Becket & Associates and J. E. Stanton, 1955). These induced supporters appear to have comprised the vast majority of speakers who called for the demolition of Parker Center on moral grounds, due to the negative impact of eminent domain on the Japanese-American community, and the racism of LAPD under the leadership of Chief William H. Parker. These emails can be found at the following URLs: Part 1 - <http://michaelkohlihaas.org/wp/2019/01/19/how-jose-huizar-was-desperate-in-2017-gil-cedillo-too-for-anyone-anyone-at-all-to-support-demolishing-parker-center-cause-everyone-like-everyone-wanted/> Part 2 - <http://michaelkohlihaas.org/wp/2019/01/27/not-only-did-cd1-senior-planning-deputy-gerald-gubatan-organize-little-tokyo-business-interests-to-attend-council-meetings-and-give-public-comment-in-favor-of-parker-center-demolition-but-he-also-told/> And additional information can be found at <https://esotouric.com/saveparkercenter/> I quote one specific email in particular, from Gerald Gubatan, Planning Director for Gil Cedillo: On Mon, Feb 6, 2017 at 2:02 PM, Gerald Gubatan wrote: FYI - I saw Ken Bernstein informally today at City Hall and he advised that the President and Vice-President of the Cultural Heritage Commission intend to appear personally before the PLUM Committee to advocate for designation of the Parker Center building as a City Monument. Therefore, it appears there may be an organized effort on behalf of the City family to push for the designation. Alternative perspectives need to be heard in a compelling and effective manner. Therefore, I strongly recommend mobilization and lining up of speakers, as well as communicating your position to Members of the PLUM Committee (via their respective staffs, today and tomorrow leading up to the 2:30PM hearing). I have noted the staff members from each office below: Jose Huizar (Shawn Kuk, Kevin Ocuillo) Marqueece Harris-Dawson (Lynnell Washington) Mitch Englander (Hannah Lee) Curren Price (Paloma Perez-McAvoy) I've copied Joanne and Alan Kumamoto with whom I previously spoke about this matter. Gerald \*\*\* Parker Center was demolished on the basis of the PLUM vote taken after this testimony, with plans to erect a new tower on the site. On June 16, 2020, the Bureau of Engineering issued a report stating that "it became apparent that the ... Project may no longer be in the best interest of the City." Parker Center was demolished after a corruptly manufactured display of "community buy in" and now the Go For Broke project is moving forward through the city's legislative process. It might well be a good project. But it behooves all of us as caring and engaged Angelenos to understand how it gained City Council support, and the useful and architecturally distinguished landmark that was destroyed along the way, at enormous cost. Sincerely yours, Kim Cooper, cultural and architectural historian / Esotouric Los Angeles 90032