

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: My opposition for this project as is comes from a deeply nuanced place and the lack of outreach by the council office and the developer on the proposed changes. While it appears that the intent to change the plans for the property have been in place for over a year, it was quite accidentally discovered by members of the neighborhood council. There's been an assertion that the neighborhood council opposes this project because it will change the character of the neighborhood and that assertion is a specious lie. The members of the neighborhood council have concerns that this project will not happen at all. We want the theatre revitalized and restored. No one wants a dangerous blighted building as the center of their downtown. Any attempt to misconstrue the detailed and well researched concerns of our neighbors as simply some reactionary movement is misguided at best and perhaps intended to be misleading at worst. We want investment in Reseda to happen after years of neglect. We also want a chance for our stakeholders to be informed and for the council office to treat our community and the neighborhood council with respect. There is an immediate easy compromise available. Simply push back the escrow close date as has been done multiple times for years by a few dates to allow adequate outreach and constructive community feedback. The distrust that the community has is not errant or out of no where. It's been earned by a historic lack of communication and the feeling that we are being dealt with in bad faith. In the year preceding this council file, members asked repeatedly for updates regarding the theatre. However no information regarding the change of scope was forth coming. The Reseda Theatre has been allowed to rot for 20 years. The simple extension of the close of escrow by a few months to address community concerns is a drop in the bucket compared the time we have been waiting for real outreach. I implore the council to hear the feedback of our neighbors and temper their actions. Had we had the kind of outreach we have been asking for for over a year, we likely would not be in the position we currently find ourselves. Undoing community mistrust starts with a show of good faith. I hope you choose that.