



June 8, 2021

City of Pasadena Design Commission
Attn: Michi Takeda
Hale Building
175 N. Garfield Ave., 2nd Floor
Pasadena, CA 91101

RE: 85 W. Green St.

Dear Members of the Design Commission:

Pasadena Heritage asks that stronger Conditions of Approval be placed on this project to ensure its compatibility with the Old Pasadena National Register Historic District. We are disappointed this project was continued for nearly two months, only to become less appropriate to the District. As you may have seen, there was an alternative scheme that was intended to be presented at the April 13, 2021 Design Commission meeting. Had that project been before you today, we would have expressed more support.

In this new iteration, there have been some clear steps backward in terms of the design. The reintroduction of balconies at every single window in the eastern-facing courtyard make little sense. Units 4, 5, 11, and 12 have two balconies per bedroom. Unit 13 has a balcony in a hallway near the unit entrance and bathroom. Unit 1 has a balcony seemingly located in a walk-in closet. These make little or no functional sense and create a cluttered façade on the exterior that is much less attractive than the previous design. On the south façade, the balconies seem to cut into an existing ficus tree which must be protected. These balconies should be placed only where they provide meaningful outdoor space, and should be reduced in size or restudied to provide better privacy and a more pleasing exterior appearance.

Additionally, the black metal cladding and canopies/louvers employed on the corner tower elements should be removed or restudied. The high-contrast look is too contemporary and inappropriate for the District. They will also absorb excessive heat in the summer months. Some subtle color would be nice in these recessed window surrounds, and could complement the earth tones elegantly.

We look forward to hearing your comments and thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Susan N. Mossman
Executive Director

Andrew Salimian
Preservation Director