

September 13, 2021

Pasadena Design Commission  
City of Pasadena  
175 North Garfield Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91109

## **RE- PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION 80 SOUTH OAKLAND AVENUE**

The citizens of Pasadena are alarmed by the application being proposed for the 110,503 square foot, 162-unit, five-story residential care facility. This project doesn't adhere to the ideals of the Specific Plan for the Playhouse District which is to create a vibrant walking district with ground floor interest and use - this is more of a hospital-like building with many transportation needs. A significant number of services are required for this type of facility which include the following:

- Coming and going of staff three times per day for caregiver shifts, as well as daily shifts of administrative, nursing, housekeeping, food service and maintenance departments
- Daily deliveries of food, pharmaceuticals, and supplies
- Multiple trash pick-ups for regular trash, medical waste, and recycling
- Visits by the family and friends of as many as 160 residents
- Regular visits by medical professionals, social workers, therapists, nurses, care managers, hospice staff, fiduciaries, consultants, entertainers, etc.
- Technician visits for maintenance of facility equipment, resident TVs, telephones, computers, etc.
- Occasional movers for residents moving in or out
- Arrival of occasional, and sometimes more frequent, emergency vehicles at any time of the day or night. This happens because facility procedures require that whenever a resident has a fall and there is an injury, or if a resident suddenly has a serious health condition, facility staff are required to call 911, which almost always results in blaring sirens.

All of these activities will transform a more quiet neighborhood into a very busy and noisy one. It seems a use of this kind is better served near Huntington Hospital in a more commercial/hospital based location.

The other issue that needs to be addressed is of the concern that we already have so many of these elderly care facilities within our city limits. We have numerous skilled nursing facilities on Fair Oaks and there is also a similar elderly care site being proposed for Arroyo/California Blvd. which you reviewed a couple months back. Will our city become even more immersed in elderly care facilities? I realize the need is great for elderly care right now, but we need to ensure we are not creating an over-concentration of these kinds of facilities in our city. What happens when the demand for these kinds of services decreases in 10 years? What then?

Land Use regulations were meant to help neighborhoods evolve without sacrificing unique characteristics or charm. That is not happening here. In so many cases it seems our Specific Plan is thrown out the window and properties are developed by whatever the developer can dream up. I am finding the same issue over and over that our Specific Plans have no teeth to create what was originally planned for the area. This building is completely incompatible with what the district was intended for. We need to stay focused on creating ideal neighborhoods and thriving commercial districts that were designed through the public process years ago with the sole purpose of growing our city with residents' input at the forefront.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erika Foy