

09-1674

JUL 07 2009

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

MOTION

The Century Plaza Hotel located at 2025 Avenue of the Stars in Century City, opened in 1966 as the centerpiece of Century City. The 19-story curved hotel has been a prominent Los Angeles landmark for more than four decades. From its prime perch fronting the spectacular fountains on the Avenue of the Stars, the Century Plaza's sweeping modern design was designed by renowned architect Minoru Yamasaki, who would later design New York's World Trade Center twin towers.

The Century Plaza Hotel stimulated the development of Century City and led to its reputation as a world-class destination, having been a gathering place for celebrities, politicians and world dignitaries since its opening day. Once nicknamed the "West Coast White House," the Century Plaza was a favorite of both Presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. Nixon hosted a celebration for the Apollo 11 astronauts at the hotel, while Reagan presided over two presidential victory celebrations in the hotel's vast ballroom and conducted much of his business in the hotel's Presidential Suite while in California.

For these reasons alone this structure is historically significant and it should be included in the City's list of historic or cultural monuments.

The Administrative Code (§22.171.7) defines an historical or cultural monument as any site, including significant trees or other plant life located thereon, building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

The Administrative Code also provides that the Council can propose sites for inclusion on the list of historic or cultural monuments. The Cultural Heritage Commission after reviewing and investigating any such Council initiated amendment to the list, and after soliciting opinions and information regarding such potential site, shall approve or disapprove the proposed inclusion or deletion and submit a report upon such action to the Council. In addition, the Administrative Code provides that there shall be a temporary (90 day) stay of demolition, substantial alteration or removal of any such proposed location or structure pending designation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that pursuant to Section 22.171.10 of the Administrative Code, the City Council propose that the Century Plaza Hotel located at 2025 Avenue of the Stars in Century City, be included in the City's list of historic or cultural monuments, with the understanding that such proposal requires, pursuant to Section 22.171.12 of the Administrative Code, that there shall be a temporary (90 day) stay of demolition, substantial alteration or removal of any location or structure at this site pending designation.

PRESENTED BY Paul Koretz
Paul Koretz
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY Earl P. Reyes

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