

do_co_mo_mo_US/socal

April 13, 2015

Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

City Councilmember Jose Huizar
200 N. Spring Street, Room 465
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: councilmember.huizar@lacity.org

RE: Parker Center/Police Facilities Building, Downtown Civic Center, Los Angeles

Dear Honorable Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember Huizar:

On behalf of the Southern California Chapter of Docomomo US, I am writing in full support of efforts to preserve and adaptively reuse the historic 1955 Parker Center in Downtown's Civic Center. This includes supporting the current effort to designate Parker Center as a Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM), an honor which it so richly deserves. Docomomo strongly believes this to be a significant Modernist landmark within the city of Los Angeles. As the City considers and plans for a centralized workforce near City Hall, Parker Center offers an opportunity to not only meet this goal but also to allow the City to lead by example and reuse an iconic historic building.

When opened in 1955 the eight-story, International Style Parker Center building was a bold and thoroughly modern centralized police headquarters, set apart from others across the country. Its design by master architects Welton Becket & Associates and J. E. Stanton was something to be proud of and generated much attention from the community at the time, as a sign of a new era in the City's growth and within the LAPD. As a model for modernizing a police force, Parker Center was state-of-the-art and ultramodern in advancing crime-fighting techniques that are now considered commonplace sixty years later.

As proposed, the project by the City's Bureau of Engineering calls for the demolition of Parker Center. This is short-sighted, especially when Preservation Alternative B2 – a clear win-win approach – allows for Parker Center to be rehabilitated and expanded at a much lower cost to the City. There are further options available also to strengthen this alternative further and allow even more square footage to be offered through a preservation-based approach.

Docomomo strongly urges you to take a step back and reconsider the preferred project. We have seen examples of similar buildings that have been successfully rehabilitated and seismically improved while meeting modern-day needs and believe the same can be accomplished for Parker Center. Docomomo welcomes the opportunity to meet and work with the City to explore alternatives to the proposed project. Please contact me at (626) 616-3976 or docomomosocal@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

do_co_mo_mo_US/socal

About Docomomo US / Southern California Chapter:

Docomomo US/SoCal's mission is to increase awareness of, and celebrate the unique legacy of, Southern California's Modern Movement and its influences, through education, documentation, and advocacy. We partner with other local, regional, and statewide organizations and agencies to enhance understanding and appreciation of the area's diverse Modern resources.

Sincerely,



Katie E. Horak
President, Docomomo US / Southern California Chapter

cc: Office of Historic Resources, City of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Conservancy
California Office of Historic Preservation
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Docomomo/US