

From: Alan Burks <alan@environarch.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:03:03 PM

To: Steven Valdez; clerk@longbeach.gov; Mayor; Council District 1; Council District 2; Council District 3; Council District 4; Council District 5; Council District 6; Council District 7; Council District 8; Council District 9

Subject: Support for the Planning Commission Appeal - Agenda Item 2

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing as a Wrigley resident of 25 years and as someone who is concerned about urban planning issues and the betterment of our community. Westland had chosen Wrigley for their corporate headquarters. In turn they have transformed a dilapidated building into an architectural showcase. Their presence in Wrigley has proven that we can improve our community. Because of Westland there has been significant building renovation activity on Willow Street and along Pacific Av. The Westland project is possible the most sustainable building in Long Beach that includes and a parking lot with a significant photovoltaic array. This parking lot is currently separated from the building by the alley that Westland wishes to vacate. The design and sustainability of this project sets an example for all of Long Beach.

Unlike most other buildings, the Westland building has practically a zero lot line at the alley. Guests and employees exiting the building are immediately confronted with alley traffic. Drivers often use this alley to bypass the traffic signals on Willow Street. This also creates a hazard for vehicles and pedestrians when these vehicles exit the alley. The City should discourage use of alleys for through traffic. Westland's control of this alley will prevent it's use for through traffic and will eliminate this hazard.

In closing, I agree with the December 1st Staff Report to the Planning Commission that finds the vacation in conformance with all elements of the General Plan and recommended approval. Please allow Westland to continue to improve their property and eliminate existing hazards to pedestrians.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Burks, AIA, LEED® BD+C

President :: Director of Architecture

ENVIRON

ARCHITECTURE | INTERIOR DESIGN | URBAN DESIGN | LANDSCAPE | BRANDING

100 Oceangate, Suite P200 | Long Beach, CA 90802

Tel: 562-495-7110 x 229 | Direct: 562-264-0429

alan@environarch.com