

Comments before  
Long Beach City Council  
Planning Commission  
Cultural Heritage Commission  
May 2016

My name is Glenda Gabel. I live on Obispo Ave., across the street from the Immanuel Church Housing Project.

Why am I here? I believe City decision-makers should be aware of the impact of their decisions. Some of you are invited to the ribbon cutting when a project begins and the dedication upon completion. You may never know what happens between those celebratory events.

The construction phase of the Immanuel project, which began over a year ago, March 2015, was originally scheduled for completion last month-April 2016. Although the work on the building interior is progressing as planned, exterior work has encountered problems. The new completion date is scheduled in October 2016, maybe early 2017. Occupancy of the facility will be delayed accordingly.

The presence of the construction crews, their vehicles, and the related activity of many trucks delivering supplies and removing dumpster after dumpster of debris and dirt impact the neighborhood. It's a dirty, noisy job. Someone has to do it. I agree, and there are those who are severely impacted by such activity in a residential neighborhood.

Parking problems, which were serious before, have been exacerbated with workers, visitors, vendors, service personnel, residents, and others competing for the extremely limited, street parking in a City identified Parking Impact District.

The impact of the project and the related presence of moving equipment, large and small, continues to affect traffic flow on Third St. and Obispo Ave. The safety of motorists and pedestrians, including children attending Mann School, is a concern. Although the primary contractor has safety procedures in place, it is difficult to control the many companies that come and go, parking in the street, not having flagmen out to direct motorists around large equipment and trucks that

block the view of on-coming traffic, leaving vehicles idling and unattended, etc.

After scolding myself for having negative thoughts about what was happening on my street, I told myself I should think positively. After consideration, I decided there were some positives.

-I have met many of my neighbors, some of whom I would never have known but for contacts about this project.

-I have learned a lot about WHO and WHAT makes the City of Long Beach tick.

-I am amazed at the amount and difficulty of labor men can and do exert to make a living for their families. The men at this job work hard; they laugh hard, too.

-I appreciate Saturdays and Sundays more than before the project. There is, usually, no project activity on weekends.

-I'm glad I have replaced some of the windows in my home. Dual-pane, energy efficient, they keep out some of the noise and dirt.

-I enjoy calm days. We don't have to listen to the wind whipping the tarps and plastic sheets at the building openings.

-I am grateful that the porta-potty is not 8' from MY home, as it is for one neighbor.

My previous invitation to join me to sit on my front porch and watch the action still stands. Let me know you're coming and I'll make iced tea, sweet, Southern style.

Thank you.

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