

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Michael Belluomini [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Serratto, Matthew; Blake, Kevin; Shelton, Delray; Echevarria, Fernando; Bertha Perez; Perez, Bertha; Jesse Ornelas; Ornelas, Jesse; Sarah Boyle; Boyle, Sarah
Cc: Levesque, Jennifer
Subject: PAVED PARKING BETWEEN PALM TREES ON N ST.

On Monday's council meeting agenda is the "N " St. Project which proposes to place diagonal parking on both sides of N St. between 16th St. and 18th St. plus to place diagonal parking between the palm trees on N St. between 16th St. and 18th St. I am writing to oppose the placement of paved parking between the palm trees from 16th to 18th St.

"N" St. is a civic center boulevard design feature meant to lead the eye with beauty and grandeur from the train station to the county courthouse. It links one of the finest buildings architecturally in the city to the arrival point of visitors by bus and eventually by high speed rail. The design and care of the N St .palm trees is a legacy of the city forefathers to us and future generations. The palm trees are over 100 years old, and so a historic part of the city. They are a beautiful living colonnade accenting the civic center area.

It seems the redevelopment of the Tioga Hotel apartments, the Mainzer theater restaurant, and the UC Merced office building have created a demand for parking that has not been planned for or resolved. Though the conversion of civic historic landscape areas is a financially inexpensive way to increase parking what is the full true cost to the community ? The loss of this historic boulevard, its connection to the city's historic past, and the beauty of N St. civic center design are priceless elements of the city character that should not be sacrificed to a parking lot. Other parking solutions should be researched.

I support placing diagonal parking on the curb side of both sides of N St. but not in the median island between the palm trees. I urge you to change the proposed parking plan to eliminate the diagonal parking between the palm trees. Where there is a will there is a way to make this happen.

Jennifer please read this memo during the public input on this item at the city council meeting Monday.

Michael Belluomini

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