

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: March 30, 2006  
TO: Planning Commissioners  
FROM: Paul Godwin, Development Project Manager  
SUBJECT: 4677 Idaho Tentative Map – Project No. 72966

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This project was originally heard by the Planning Commission on February 2, 2006. The planning commission expressed concern regarding the exiting parking, which is three spaces for five units. The applicant requested a continuance to examine alternative designs that would provide more on-site parking. An alternative design that provides one garage parking space per unit has been proposed by the applicant and is included as part of this package.

Thank you.

Paul Godwin

**DATE ISSUED:** January 26, 2006 **REPORT NO. PC-06-016**

**ATTENTION:** **Planning Commission, Agenda of February 2, 2006**

**SUBJECT:** 4677 IDAHO TENTATIVE MAP – 4677 IDAHO STREET;  
PROJECT NO. 72966  
PROCESS FOUR

**OWNERS:** 4677 Idaho St. LLC (Attachment 8)

**APPLICANT:** Mirek Knopp

**SUMMARY**

**Issue:** Should the Planning Commission approve a Tentative Map for the conversion of five existing residential units to condominiums at 4677 Idaho Street, within the Greater North Park Community Plan Area?

**Staff Recommendation:**

1. **Approve** Tentative Map No. 223028 and
2. **Approve** waiver to the requirement to underground existing overhead utilities.

**Community Planning Group Recommendation:** On October 18, 2005, the Greater North Park Community Planning Group voted to recommend denial of the project. (Attachment 7).

**Environmental Review:** This project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Article 19, Section 15301(k), Existing Facilities, of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project is not pending an appeal of the environmental determination. The environmental exemption determination for this project was made on June 15, 2005, and the opportunity to appeal that determination ended September 7, 2005.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:** None with this action. All costs associated with the processing of this project are paid by the applicant.

**Code Enforcement Impact:** None with this action.

**Housing Impact Statement:** With the proposed conversion of five existing apartments to condominiums, there would be a loss of five rental units and a gain of five for-sale units. This condominium conversion project was deemed complete on June 6, 2005, and is therefore subject to the new regulations regarding Inclusionary housing and tenant relocation assistance.

## **BACKGROUND**

The 9,108 square-foot site is located at 4677 Idaho Street in the MR-1750 and CN-3 Zone of Mid City Communities Planned District, within the Greater North Park Community Plan Area (Attachment 3). The site is presently developed with one, one-story structure containing one, three-bedroom unit and one, two-bedroom unit and one two story structure containing three, two bedroom units. Three off-street parking spaces are provided on the site, which are accessed from the alley at the rear of the property. The site is bounded on the north, east, and west by commercial uses and the south by multi-family residential uses.

The existing improvements were constructed in 1955. At the time the site was zoned R-3A (one unit per 600 square feet) and would have allowed for 15 dwelling units.

There were no parking requirements in effect at the time of construction. The development complied with the zoning and development regulations in effect at the time of construction and no Building or Zoning code violations have been recorded against the property.

The project does conform with the current density requirement of one unit per 1,750 square feet in the MR-1750 Zone. Under current criteria, 10 off-street parking spaces would be required. The project has previously-conforming rights to be maintained as outlined in Chapter 12, Article 7, Division 1 of the Land Development Code.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Project Description:**

The project proposes a Tentative Map for the subdivision of a 9,018 square-foot site to convert five existing dwelling units into condominiums on two existing lots (Attachment 5). The applicant is also requesting that the requirement for the undergrounding of existing overhead utilities be waived.

Section 125.0410 of the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) requires that a Tentative Map be processed for the subdivision of land. According to SDMC Sections 125.0440 and 125.0444, *Findings for Tentative Maps and for Condominium Conversions*, the decisionmaker may approve a Tentative Map for the purposes of the conversion of residential property into a condominium project if the decisionmaker finds that the proposed conversion complies with the requirements of the Subdivision Map Act and the San Diego Municipal Code. Staff has reviewed the proposed condominium conversion and determined that it complies with both the Subdivision Map Act and the San Diego Municipal Code.

#### Undergrounding of Existing Utilities

San Diego Municipal Code Section 144.0240 allows the subdivider to apply for a waiver from the requirement to underground the existing overhead utilities within the boundary of the subdivision or within the abutting public rights of way. City staff has determined the undergrounding waiver request qualifies under the guidelines of Council Policy 600-25, *Underground Conversion of Utility Lines at the Developer's Expense*, as the conversion involves a short span of overhead facility (less than 600 feet in length).

The applicant will be required to underground all existing service to the site per Condition No. 16 of the draft Tentative Map resolution (Attachment 6). The applicant would also be required to underground any new service run to any new or proposed structures within the subdivision per Condition No. 16 of the draft Tentative Map resolution (Attachment 6).

The neighborhood currently contains power poles and overhead utilities lines in the alley on the north east corner of the site. The utility lines to these poles extend to other properties located north and south within the street. The pole closest to this property, which carries the line serving this site, is located within the rear alley right-of-way, approximately one foot north east of this site. As indicated above, all utilities serving this property will be required to be undergrounded. The waiver is being requested for the requirement to underground adjacent utilities serving the surrounding properties. The City's Undergrounding Master Plan for Fiscal Year 2006 designates the site within Block 3GG, and the date for undergrounding has been established for the year 2017 (Attachment 10).

#### **Community Planning Group and Neighborhood Recommendations:**

On October 18, 2005, the Greater North Park Community Planning Group voted to recommend denial of the project 11-1-2 based on inadequate parking (Attachment 7).

#### **Project-Related Issues:**

The requested conversion of these residential units to condominiums represents primarily a change in ownership. The applicant has certified that the required 60-day Notices of Intent to Convert to Condominiums were provided to the tenants April 7, 2005 (Attachment 11).

All condominium conversion projects Deemed Complete on or after February 7, 2004, must conform with the new regulations regarding Inclusionary housing and tenant relocation benefits adopted by the City Council on March 15, 2004. This proposed project was Deemed Complete on June 6, 2005, and is therefore subject to these new regulations. The project has been conditioned to require the subdivider conform with the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 13 of the Land Development Code) and demonstrate conformance with the Municipal Code provisions for Tenant Relocation Benefits (Chapter 14, Article 4, Division 5) to the satisfaction of the City Manager and the Housing Commission, prior to the recordation of the Final Map.

**Conclusion:**

Staff has reviewed the request for a Tentative Map for the conversion of five residential units into condominiums and has found the project to be in conformance with the applicable sections of the San Diego Municipal Code regulating Tentative Maps. Staff believes the requirement findings can be supported and recommends the Planning Commission approve the project as proposed.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. **Approve Tentative Map No. 223028with modifications.**
2. **Deny Tentative Map No. 223028if the findings required to approve the project cannot be affirmed.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Jeffrey D. Strohminger**  
**Acting Deputy Director, Customer Support**  
**and Information Division**  
**Development Services Department**

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**Paul B. Godwin**  
**Customer Support and**  
**Information Division**  
**Development Services Department**

STROHMNGER/MAS

Attachments:

1. Aerial Photograph
2. Community Plan Land Use Map
3. Project Location Map
4. Project Data Sheet
5. Tentative Map
6. Draft Map Conditions and Subdivision Resolution
7. Community Planning Group Recommendation
8. Ownership Disclosure Statement
9. Project Chronology
10. City's Undergrounding Master Plan – Map 3GG
11. Copy of 60-Day Notice of Intent to Convert
12. Photos of Existing Front and Rear Elevations