

November 23, 2022

Christopher Ackerman-Avila, Policy Advisor
Office of Mayor Todd Gloria
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Civic Center Revitalization Committee

Please share with the Committee, staff and public.

As the Committee considers the development of the Civic Center core, I offer the following comments:

1. The hybrid format of the last meeting (in person and via zoom) was inadequate in hearing the committee members comments and discussion. Some zoom members of the public shared with me that they either left the zoom or did not hear the full discussion. The zoom should include closed captioning to help facilitate what is being said. This will also enable any member of the public with hearing difficulty to at least have some knowledge of the discussion.
2. The general public doesn't seem to be engaged at this time. Have you given consideration to enabling the chat? This may afford any of the public attending via zoom the means to offer comments. Will the committee hold any meetings in the individual council district? The committee could add a member of the Community Planning Groups Committee to its membership.
3. It is a given that a mix of housing at varying income levels and affordability will be predominant in the revitalization. A reimagined Civic Theater and a new City Hall and civic public space, could be the foundation to build upon in rethinking these city blocks. The current Concourse often serves as a place for celebration as well as protest. There must be consideration for a public gathering space in the revitalization area.
4. Wellness and health are aspects of downtown living and working that need to be addressed. Many San Diegans enjoy the outdoors and participate in physical activity. How could this area support and encourage healthy living? Space for medical and wellness should be given included.
5. Along with a revitalized Civic Theater and other cultural and arts space, perhaps a satellite of the San Diego History Center (located in Balboa Park) would complement a new City Hall giving visitors and citizens the opportunity to learn more about the history of San Diego and its environs.

6. As planning takes shape, will these blocks be combined or will they open up and maintain the street block structure? What are the potential developments surrounding the identified revitalization area and how might that connect and integrate to make a seamless character for this neighborhood?
7. The Civic Center Design Working Group may want to exam Escondido's City Hall Complex to understand success and challenges. UCSD recently completed the North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood. Although not a government focused development, its housing, scale and size may offer some ideas in the transformation of these blocks.

I look forward to hearing the discussions regarding these comments and questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Kaminski". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles Kaminski
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