



May 8, 2010

The Honorable Steven Pougnet
Mayor of Palm Springs
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Re: Case No. 3.3333 MAJ, Community Dynamics Proposal

Dear Mayor,

In January of 2009, the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation held Wexler Weekend to sell-out crowds. One of the highlights of the weekend was a tour of the Steel Development Homes (1961) designed by the prominent local architect Donald Wexler. The Foundation will again include these historic and architecturally important homes in its upcoming "Alexander Weekend Revisited" in early 2011. **In short, aside from being designated Class 1 historic sites, these homes have collectively risen to the level of a *bona fide* cultural tourist attraction.**

As you know, many of the owners of the Steel Development Houses renovated their homes when this area of Palm Springs was a "marginally livable" part of the city. They invested their time and money to bring these homes back to their previous glory. The city has frequently acknowledged and lauded this turnaround. Along with the local residents we continue to support the sensitive development of the parcel of land adjacent to these historic homes. That said, the city has committed an error of omission by failing to re-evaluate the zoning of the subject parcel as the historic and architectural importance of the Steel Development Houses has emerged.

You have before you extensive documentation and testimony from the Architectural Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission and local residents regarding the subject development. The outside builder, Community Dynamics, has repeatedly ignored the collective counsel of these groups and has now elected to try an administrative "end-around" to the city council.

Our concerns about the Community Dynamics project are similar: high-density, setback variances, lack of architectural creativity, detached carports, light and noise pollution, intrusion on the privacy of the adjacent residential units and a host of other quality-of-life considerations impacting both the local homeowners and the prospective residents of the proposed complex. We strongly encourage you to deny this ill-advised project.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (760) 837-7117.

Sincerely,

Ron Marshall
President

Copy to: Council members Foat, Hutcheson, Mills and Weigel