

City Hall Parking Lot Reconfiguration Issue

CHRONOLOGY

On January 7, 2009 a proposal to reconfigure the city hall parking lot is imbedded in an obscure “consent calendar” item entitled, “City Hall and Dog Park Parking Lot Repairs.”

On August 23, 2009 the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation (PSPF) sends a letter to the Mayor objecting to the reconfiguration on the grounds that the city hall is a properly designated Class 1 historic site and any changes to the parking lot must go before the city’s Historic Site Preservation Board. PSPF’s letter says the proposed reconfiguration, “replaces great architecture with a view of unsightly car grills.”

On August 24, 2009 PSPF posts its the letter to the mayor on its website and notifies all PSPF members of the issue the next day with an email campaign.

On August 30, 2009 City Manager David Ready is quoted in the Desert Sun newspaper as saying “there’s no harm” in the proposal going before the Historic Site Preservation Board, but there is no follow-up by the city.

On September 9, 2009 a “Valley Voice” column by PSPF board member Gary Johns appears in the Desert Sun newspaper strenuously objecting to the parking lot reconfiguration citing a number of serious concerns.

On October 3, 2009, at Palm Springs Modern Committee’s (PSMODCOM) 2009 Architectural Preservation Awards luncheon, **Mayor Pougnet tells the gathered group “not to worry” about the parking lot reconfiguration.**

The parking lot reconfiguration is rolled into the Tahquitz Canyon Way Median Design Concept (Phase 1). Public input is solicited via an onerous on-line process. PSPF re-submits its August letter as “input.”

On October 29, 2009 the city announces a public meeting to “gain input from residents” regarding the “several sustainable redesign concepts.” The official press release says the city plan “includes plans to repave the parking lots and landscaping of City Hall...” not mentioning the major reconfiguration of the parking lot. Many concerned citizens appear at the meeting and register their objections, verbally and in writing. These inputs are ignored and the project goes forward.

On January 25, 2010 the city’s **Planning Director approves** “Case No. 3.3377-MAA; City Hall Parking Lot Rehabilitation,” **over-riding the repeated objections of the city’s Architectural Advisory Committee.**

On February 8, 2010 **a group of concerned citizens appeals the January 25 decision of the planning director citing historical, procedural, fiscal and design and sustainability concerns.** PSMODCOM becomes a signatory should litigation on the issue become necessary downstream.

On February 9, 2010 the city’s Historic Site Preservation Board finally discusses PSPF’s August letter. The board unanimously votes to have city staff prepare a recommendation to the city council to declare the city hall an historic site (not just an historic building). **The board then issues a stay of demolition of 90-days for the city hall site to include the parking lot.**



KEEP CITY HALL LIKE THIS.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

You can help by sending an email to one or all of our city council members.

Put “**SAVE THE SITE**” in your email subject line and tell the council members.

“We want our city hall protected, not abused. Do not trade great architecture for a used car lot. Keep the parking lot in its present configuration.”

Steve.Pougnet@palmsprings-ca.gov
Lee.Weigel@palmsprings-ca.gov
Ginny.Foat@palmsprings-ca.gov
Chris.Mills@palmsprings-ca.gov
Rick.Hutcheson@palmsprings-ca.gov



Visit www.pspreservationfoundation.org



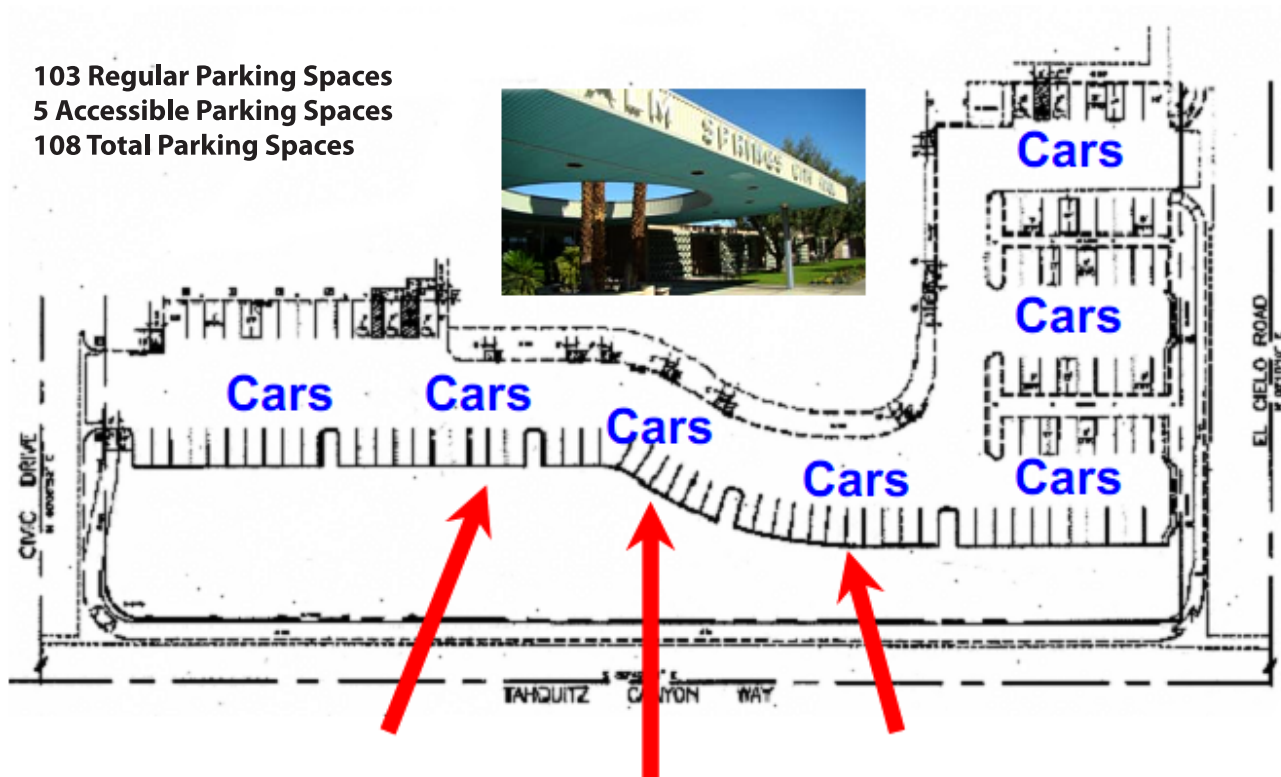
Is this the view you want as you pass City Hall?



Before



After



**The proposed plan means
Blocked Sight Lines**

Five parking spaces are actually lost in the proposed plan.

**For more information visit
pspreservationfoundation.org/city_hall_parking.html**