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# CITY OF POMONA

## COUNCIL REPORT

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February 3, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: James Makshanoff, City Manager

Submitted By: Anita D. Gutierrez, AICP, Director of Development Services

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW AN APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS FOR THE POMONA CIVIC CENTER BUILDINGS**

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-15 (Attachment 1).

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, TO AUTHORIZE THE FILING OF A HISTORIC LANDMARK APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK STATUS FOR THE POMONA CIVIC CENTER BUILDINGS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AS REQUIRED BY THE CITY OF POMONA ZONING ORDINANCE SECTION .5809-13(E).**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Civic Center is City owned property, and as such, requires approval from the City Council as the owner in order to allow an application for historic landmark designation to move forward. This action would allow the application to be fully analyzed by staff and brought to the Historic Preservation Commission ("Commission") for consideration. Approval of the resolution will not approve the designation of the requested Civic Center buildings as historic landmarks, rather it will only allow the application to be considered by the Commission. Any recommendation by the Commission would be brought to the City Council for a final decision.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

### **PREVIOUS RELATED ACTION:**

None.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines, the adoption of this resolution is exempt from CEQA review pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15061(b)(3), which is applicable if it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. A CEQA analysis will be included in the full application review.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The City of Pomona Civic Center (Civic Center) was designed by American modern architect Welton Becket. The Civic Center, which was constructed in 1969, consisted of City Hall, Council Chambers, Public Library, Police Department, Superior Court, and Public Health buildings. The six buildings constitute the largest concentration of buildings designed by Welton Beckett. Other notable buildings designed by Welton Becket include the Capital Records building, Beverly Hilton Hotel, Cinerama Dome, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Mark Taper Forum and Ahmanson Theater.

On August 2, 2017, Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Mickey Gallivan, filed an application for Single Historic Landmark Designation (SHISTORIC 8195-2017) requesting the designation of the City of Pomona Civic Center buildings as a historic landmark. Specifically, the designation would include the following buildings: City Hall, Council Chambers, Public Library, Police Department (portions of which now house facilities for Los Angeles County Fire Department), as well as the esplanade consisting of the walkways, planters, and water fountain. It should be noted that the Superior Court and Public Health buildings are under ownership of the State of California and County of Los Angeles and not included in the request for historic landmark designation.

According to the historic preservation provisions of the Pomona Zoning Ordinance Sec. 5809-13(E)(1)(b), the designation of nonresidential structures as historic landmarks requires the consent of the owner prior to the scheduling of a public hearing before the Historic Preservation Commission. In this case the owner of the nonresidential structures is the City of Pomona. Therefore, in order for the application to move forward and be considered at a public hearing before the Commission, the City Council must first give consent

Approval of the resolution will not approve the designation of the requested Civic Center buildings as historic landmarks. The authorization under the resolution will only allow the application to be considered by the Commission for recommendation to the City Council for historic landmark designation. Final consideration and decision of the Civic Center buildings designation as a historic landmark will be made by the City Council at a later date.

## **ALTERNATIVE:**

The City Council has the following alternative:

- 1) Deny Resolution No. 2020-15 authorizing a historic landmark application for the preservation of the civic center buildings to be considered by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Prepared by:

Vinny Tam, AICP  
Senior Planner

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Attachment No. 1 – Resolution No. 2020-15