

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-139

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING THE AREA GENERALLY LOCATED BETWEEN GAREY AVENUE, 8TH STREET, PARK AVENUE, AND MISSION BOULEVARD, KNOWN AS THE POMONA CIVIC CENTER, AS A LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, the applicant, Mickey Gallivan submitted an application requesting single landmark designation (SHISTORIC-008195-2017) on August 2, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, The Planning Division determined that the application should be for a local district designation rather than a single landmark designation; and

**WHEREAS**, for designation of an Historic District, Section .5809-13.D of the Zoning Ordinance requires that the Historic Preservation Commission find that the majority of structures are over fifty years old or of exceptional quality and meets at least one of ten criteria for designation; and

**WHEREAS**, for designation of an Historic District, Section .5809-13.E of the Zoning Ordinance states that the application for designation shall contain sufficient documentation and information indicating how the building meets the criteria for designation; and

**WHEREAS**, the application for an Historic District designation submitted for the property provides photographs, statements, articles and other documents indicating that the subject structure is over fifty years old and clearly meets at least one of the criteria for designation; and

**WHEREAS**, no objections to the designation have been received by the Planning Division; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historic Preservation Commission has, after giving notice thereof as required by law, held a public hearing on August 4, 2021, concerning the requested Historic District designation and approved a Resolution recommending City Council approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Clerk has, subject to requirements of the Historic Preservation Ordinance placed the application on the October 18, 2021 City Council agenda, for the requested Historic District designation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has carefully considered any pertinent testimony and the staff report offered in the case presented at the City Council meeting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Pomona as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The City Council determines that the approval of the Historic District designation request (SHISTORIC-008195-2017) for the property located between Garey Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Park

Avenue, and Mission Boulevard, known as the Pomona Civic Center, is not defined as a project per CEQA. Section 15060 of the Guidelines exempts actions from CEQA that would not result in either an indirect or direct impact on the environment and that do not meet the Section 15378(a) definition of a project. Section 15378(a) defines a project as one that has the potential for resulting in a physical change to the environment. No physical change to the environment is anticipated with the single historic landmark designation.

**SECTION 2.** The City Council hereby finds and determines that the application requesting Historic District designation request (SHISTORIC-008195-2017) for the property located from Garey Avenue on the East, south to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, West to Thomas Street, South to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, West to Park Avenue North to Mission Boulevard and East to Garey Avenue, known as the Pomona Civic Center, provides sufficient documentation and information indicating that the majority of structures are over fifty years old and clearly meets designation criterion Nos. 3, 5, and 10, as follows:

3. *It embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship;*

The Pomona Civic Center has the largest concentration of New Formalism architecture in Southern California, if not the entire State. New Formalism developed in the 1950s and brought classical elements back in a new, “modern” way. The style used columns, entablatures, and similar classical elements to create monumentality in buildings (including setting buildings up on a pedestal). Pools, fountains and sculpture was used to provide a formal landscape to complement the building. In addition to the 4 New Formalism Buildings in the Civic Center, there are also 3 Mid-Century Modern style buildings. Mid-Century Modern is a result of the development of the International style and is based on the principles of French architect LeCorbusier. As the style developed the first three principles became features in every international style building and the ribbon window would merge into the facade and develop into the glass curtain wall. As the style developed and inspiration changed to the space age, the style also changed and this new period of modernism is the Mid-Century Modern style. These two styles furthered the modernist idea of “architecture as art”.

5. *It is the work of a notable builder, designer, landscape designer or architect;*

The Civic Center is was designed by Welton Becket, a prominent Southern California architect during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. Becket was one of Southern California’s most prominent Modernist architects. While other architects like Neutra, Eames, and Lautner are better known “Mid-Century Modern” architects, they are all known for their residential designs. Becket’s work was predominantly commercial and civic. He designed some of Southern California’s most recognizable landmarks and ended up with the largest architecture firm in America. His work has been a template for many other to follow.

Born in 1902, Becket grew up in Washington and graduated from the University of Washington. He moved to Los Angeles in 1933. With his schoolmate Walter Wurdeman, they form a partnership with Charles Plummer. In 1935, he designed the Pan Pacific Auditorium, streamline modern masterpiece. In 1947, he designed Bullock’s Pasadena (now Macy’s Pasadena), which became the first suburban department store and when combined with the work of A.C. Martin, became the modern shopping mall (he also designed Fashion Island in Newport Beach among other malls). He designed the Beverly Hills Hilton hotel, the original Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Parker

Center (Old LAPD Headquarters), Pauley Pavilion, the Cinerama Dome, the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena, and the Capital Records Building.

His best work was probably his civic work. He designed Orange City Hall and the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. His best known work is probably the Los Angeles County Music Center where he designed the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Mark Taper Forum, the Ahmanson Theatre, and the central plaza. All of these places were, like much of the Pomona Civic Center, designed in the New Formalism style. Becket believe in a total design concept, where his firm designed everything, from buildings, to fixtures and furniture, and even signage. The Pomona Civic Center is also noteworthy as having the largest concentration of his designs in America.

*10. It is one of the few remaining examples in the city of Pomona, region, state, or nation possessing distinguishing characteristics of an architectural or historical type or specimen.*

The Pomona Civic Center has the largest concentration of Welton Becket and Associates buildings in America. The Civic Center is also the largest concentration of New Formalism buildings in Southern California if not the entire state. In addition, it is one of the few remaining Mid-Century Modern Civic Centers that is still relatively unaltered.

**SECTION 3.** Based on the above findings, the City Council hereby approves Historic District designation request (SHISTORIC-008195-2017) for the property located from Garey Avenue on the East, south to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, West to Thomas Street, South to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, West to Park Avenue North to Mission Boulevard and East to Garey Avenue, known as the Pomona Civic Center (Exhibit “A”) and directs the Development Services Department, Planning Division to add it to the Pomona Register of Historic Places.

**SECTION 4.** The City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution, and it shall become effective immediately upon its approval.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

**CITY OF POMONA:**

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Tim Sandoval  
Mayor

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**ATTEST:**

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Sonia Carvalho  
City Attorney

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Rosalia A. Butler, MMC  
City Clerk

I, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Pomona at a regular meeting thereof held on October 18, 2021 by the following vote of the Council:

AYES:

NOES:

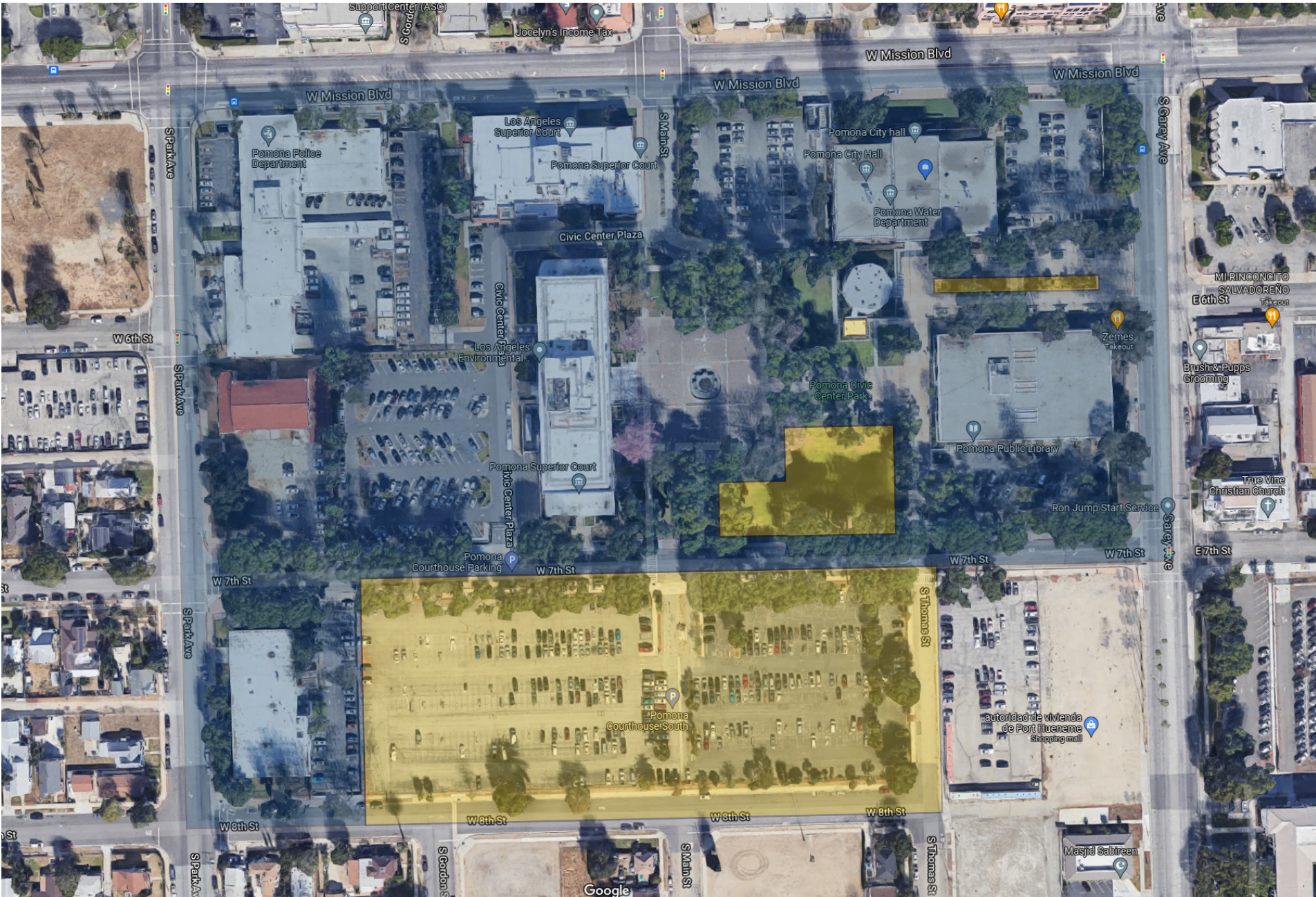
ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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Rosalia A. Butler, MMC  
City Clerk





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**POMONA CIVIC CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Garey Avenue to Park Avenue, 8th Street to Mission Boulevard

- Contributing Resource
- Non Contributing Resource