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ROSENDAHL STATEMENT ON PROPOSED MDR TOWER IN VENICE

Councilman Bill Rosendahl today issued the following statement regarding the proposed MDR Tower, a 31-story mixed-use retail and condominium project at 4363 Lincoln Boulevard in Venice:

"While most West LA residents support the concept of mixed-use developments, the proposed MDR Tower is excessively large. In huge numbers and from a variety of neighborhoods, my constituents have spoken loudly and clearly in opposition to the proposed 31-story MDR Tower, as it is currently designed. I join them in that opposition.

Like many others, I am opposed to the concept of building gated high-rise buildings in neighborhoods so close to the beach. I am fighting to maintain the community fabric of mixed income neighborhoods so that all income levels can enjoy the Westside and the beach.

The insular, unfriendly design of this proposed 366-foot tower does not meet the spirit and vision of inclusion that is so prevalent in the Venice area.

Although I am working to bring light rail to Lincoln Boulevard, that advance in mass transit is still many years away. Meanwhile, this segment of Lincoln is in gridlock most hours of the day. I am very concerned about allowing any additional traffic-inducing developments to proceed until I am assured that mass transit will serve this corridor.

I have shared my concerns with many members of the community and with the developer. As proposed, this project should not be approved. I urge the developer to work with the community to significantly downsize the project, increase the amount of affordable housing, and contribute to the introduction of light rail along Lincoln Boulevard.

Together, I am confident that we can develop a proposal that will better serve the community, reflect its character, and contribute to congestion relief."

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