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From: **Karyl Hall** <REDACTED>

Date: Mon, Jul 8, 2024 at 1:38 PM

Subject: J.D. Pastor Project

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Dear Planning Commissioners et al.,

This letter is a partial rebuttal to the letter submitted on July 2, 2024 by Ian Martin.

Apparently, Mr. Martin would like commercial/industrial glass and steel boxes because they are not “historical reproductions.” I don’t know a style that is not a historical reproduction in the United States, and especially CA, *including* modern styles.

It is true that the current commercial design guidelines state: “New buildings should not imitate styles of the past but strive to achieve compatibility with the old.” First, modern styles do not achieve compatibility with the old. Drive through our neighborhoods to see how jarring most modern designs look. Second, The Design Review Steering Committee has eliminated the above statement for the updated version, as it is not in keeping with maintaining Carmel’s old-world charm.

The “logic” of replacing Carmel’s traditional building styles with modern designs is flawed. How long will it take before ALMOST ALL the traditional styles are replaced, making Carmel “anywhere USA?” Modern is “in,” but we must protect Carmel from styles that do not capture its charm. This is how we have maintained Carmel as a special place that tourists clammer to see. Whether Spanish Colonial Revival or one of the many other traditional styles, Carmel deserves planning commissioners who can see that Carmel is distinctive because leaders have protected it. It is hard work to keep Carmel unique, and not always popular with a small minority of our outspoken residents.

Thank you,
Karyl Hall
Carmel Preservation Association