



September 4, 2020

To: City of Orange Staff, Mayor, and City Council

Mr Rick Otto, City Manager

Mr. Gary Sheatz, City Attorney

Mr. Bill Crouch, Director of Community Development

Mayor Mark Murphy, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Alvarez

Council Member Kimberlee Nichols, Council Member Chip Monaco

Address: 300 East Chapman Avenue Orange, CA 92866

From: Old Towne Preservation Association (OTPA)

Adam Feliz, Co-Chair Preservation and Membership

Adam Duberstein Co-Chair Preservation and Membership

Board of Directors: President Sandy Quinn, Vice President Tony Trabucco, Secretary Diana Zdenek, Treasurer Ted Albert, Members-at-Large Tita Smith, Dan Slater, Mignon Whitaker, Carol Craig, Joe Peters, Guy Hinrichs, Victoria Laughlin, Alia Gerard

Re: Design Review Committee (DRC) Ordinance 13-20: Amending Title 12, Title 16 and Title 17 of the O.M.C.

The Old Towne Preservation Association (OTPA) appreciates our working relationship with the City Council and City of Orange Staff to fulfill our joint mission to preserve, protect and enhance Old Towne Orange.

This one square mile area contains more than 1,400 structures built before 1940 and in 1997, Old Towne Orange became a National Historic District and was placed in the National Registry of Historic Places. This makes it the largest residential Historic District in the State of California. OTPA Membership includes more than 400 Old Towne households with more than 1,100 residents.

As a stakeholder in the community, OTPA supports the intended revision to Ordinance 13-20 as it relates to,

1. making the applicant approval process more efficient and
2. general clean-up of redundancies in verbiage, overlapping Resolutions and/or Ordinances and the intended focus of Historic Districts, Historic Buildings & Structures.

However, OTPA is unable to fully support the ordinance as it is written for the following deficiencies and unclear purview of the Design Review Committee:

1. Section 17.08.020. Landscape was removed from Section D and Section D.1 & D.2

As a stakeholder in the community, OTPA is requesting that Landscaping remain in the purview of the DRC to retain consistency of Historic Districts and Historic Structures & Buildings listed on the Historic Resource Survey. Landscape is key to beautification and to ensure the overall project remains consistent with the surrounding properties.

2. Section 17.10.060. E2 appears to have language that is unclear. “The commission, in considering a site plan review application shall review the recommendations of the Director” should read, “the recommendations of the Director and the DRC”, as the DRC is a recommending body in the section.
3. OTPA would like additional clarification on the following items:
 - a. How will projects that fall under the period of significance be reviewed if they are not listed as a Historic District and/or Historic Structures & Buildings listed on the Historic Resource Survey ?
 - b. Section 17.08.020.B2.C : Please define the term “Body” and provide clear language as this is unclear.
 - c. Section 17.08.20.D.2.a : Please define “ As appropriate” to ensure definition references the documents that govern the process.
 - d. Section 17.08.20.D.2.b : Final Determination on proposed demolition of Historic Districts and Historic Structures & Buildings listed on the Historic Resource Survey was downgraded to recommendations only. OTPA requests that Final Determinations be reinstated.
 - e. Section 17.10.070.D: The term “ At public meeting” appears to be removed. Please provide clarification as to why this was removed as it is unclear if meetings will be public.
 - f. Section 17.10.070.G.F: Please define and provide clarification on the term “integrated design theme”. OTPA is unable to determine how this term is defined.

As a stakeholder in the community, OTPA respectfully requests the above-mentioned points be incorporated into the ordinance and clarifications addressed. These additions will further strengthen the DRC’s objective and oversight of the Historic District and Historic Structures & Buildings listed on the Historic Resource Survey, ensuring our City’s crown jewel, Old Towne Orange, can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Thank you for considering the request of the Old Towne Preservation Association (OTPA).

Please contact Adam Feliz via email (feliz.adam@icloud.com) /telephone (714-917-9781) or Adam Duberstein via email (aduberstein@gmail.com) /telephone (949-933-0089) for follow up questions, comments, or related contact concerning this subject matter.

Sincerely,

Old Towne Preservation Association Board of Directors