



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 14, 2018

Land Use and Transportation Committee of the Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Legislative Chamber, Room 250
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Central SoMa Public Benefits Package and the Old U.S. Mint

Chair Katy Tang and Members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

At its August 1, 2018 hearing the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) discussed the proposal to reduce the amount of potential funding from the Central SoMa Public Benefits Program towards the rehabilitation of the Old U.S. Mint (Old Mint), City Landmark No. 236. While a much greater investment is needed to realize the full potential of the Old Mint, the HPC strongly encourages the Land Use Committee to recommend retention of the 1% allocation (potentially \$20,000,000) considering its potential as a facility that supports the community and the City's history.

Built in 1874, The Old Mint is not only a locally-designated Landmark; it is listed as a National Historic Landmark, the highest recognition bestowed upon only the most significant places in America. In 1997, the federal government sold the Old Mint to the City of County of San Francisco for one dollar on the condition that it would be rehabilitated for public use. In 2015 the Old Mint was listed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation on its America's eleven most endangered places due to lack of investment. Despite stops and starts to revive the Old Mint, the City Family has made significant progress over the last three years by actively working with community partners to reposition the structure as one that represents the activity, safety, and stability of the surrounding neighborhood.

The HPC supports the many goals of the Public Benefits Package and agrees that the Central SoMa Plan should not shoulder the entire cost of rehabilitating the structure. The 1% allocation is a fraction of the total resources required to bring the Old Mint to current safety standards but remains a critical contribution to realizing its potential. As one of the most significant public buildings in the West, our community partners, along with the City family, are committed to sharing the financial responsibilities to reimagine the Old Mint as an anchor of safety, utility, and in service to the many communities that make up Central SoMa. The HPC strongly urges the Land Use Committee and the Board of Supervisors to retain the opportunity for the Old Mint to potentially capture \$20,000,000 from the Public Benefits Package commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Wolfram".

Andrew Wolfram
President
Historic Preservation Commission

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cc: Board of Supervisors
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