

September 5, 2016

Ann Clevenger, Planner III, AICP
City of Oakland, Bureau of Planning
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Yesterday I wrote to you information to be passed on to the Planning Commission concerning the Claremont Hotel's expansion plans relating to the noise issue.

Today I would like to address The Claremont's proposal to increase the number of memberships from its present level of 1600, to 1850, which would be an increase of 250 memberships.

I've been a Claremont Club member for over 40 years. At the present time, I would say that club usage is at near-maximum capacity. Especially on weekends, when the children come, the parking lot is at or near capacity, the outdoor hot tub is frequently at or over capacity (15 is the maximum permissible according to the posted regulations), and other club facilities are heavily used. During the summertime, when school is out, the large number of family memberships make for heavy Club usage not just on weekends, but all week long.

The children of those of us who joined many years ago are long since grown up and off our memberships. However, many of the new memberships are family memberships which include young children, and these memberships make for heavy usage of club facilities by both children and adults.

The Claremont is proposing an additional 30 new parking spaces for all uses, including hotel guests and club members. In my opinion, this would not be nearly enough to accommodate 250 new memberships. I would propose that an increase of 50 new memberships would be more than sufficient at this time, in view of the heavy club usage. Thirty new parking spaces would barely be enough to serve the 50 new memberships, many of which would be the heavily usage family memberships, which would comprise a large part of the 50.

Parking outside the Domingo Ave. entrance of the hotel, which is the main entrance used by club members, is very limited. Just across from the hotel's Domingo Ave. entrance are Peet's Coffee and Tea, and Fournée Bakery, both of which are extremely popular and heavily visited establishments on weekends. Other retail shops on Domingo contribute to the parking problem outside the hotel. Therefore, the Claremont cannot expand memberships beyond its capacity to take care of parking for its proposed new members. The neighborhood is already saturated with parking, from employees of the Claremont as well as from customers of the commercial shops. The surrounding neighborhood does not want an increase in congestion caused by plans for expansion that the Claremont cannot properly accommodate.

Sincerely,

Ronald H. Berman, M.D.
Oakland, CA