

Christopher Andrews, Chair  
Oakland Landmarks Preservation Board

Dear Mr. Andrews and all members of the Oakland Landmarks Preservation Board,

I am a neighbor, living in close proximity to the Claremont Hotel for the past 46 years. I have also been a Claremont Club member for the same length of time. I've always thought that the Claremont Hotel was a stunning architectural masterpiece. Not only is the hotel of such architectural importance, but being surrounded by the magnificent grounds of the hotel creates an environmental unity which makes it so very special.

So it has remained for some 101 years. Now the present owners threaten to disturb this harmony of hotel and nature by proposing to build some 43 condominiums and one house, on the hotel grounds, only 50 yards from the hotel. If this proposal were carried out, it would irrevocably disturb the beauty of the hotel in its tranquil surroundings. One would no longer look at the magnificent hotel surrounded by the gardens, but ones gaze would be attracted to and disturbed by the condominium buildings encroaching on the hotel space.

Not only would this be aesthetically unappealing, but it would be in direct violation of Oakland City Council Ordinance 12438, filed on July 30, 2002.

This ordinance instructs your board to:

Section 7 8: In addition to the other review requirements for applications submitted for design review set forth in the Oakland Planning Code and the Historic Preservation Element for a landmarked structure, and without reducing or eliminating any such requirements, applications submitted for design review for a project.....shall be reviewed so as to,

- a. protect sight lines of the hotel building from the immediate downhill streets.....
- b. provide an appropriate sense of open space around the hotel building.

I urge you to consider these factors when reviewing the project submitted by the Signature Development Corporation. Many residents feel that sight lines to the hotel would be disturbed, and the sense of open space surrounding the hotel building would be violated.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Oakland resident with Berkeley mailing address)