

The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council was surprised by the announcement and action of the Los Angeles City Council in designating a portion of our neighborhood, "Little Italy." This action came without notification nor consultation of and with our council. The action did not meet the spirit of the "early warning" mandate on planning. Although the city council is not legally required to hear public comment on an item if it is unchanged from another noticed meeting, the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council sincerely wanted to give its advice and perspective.

The designation may also offend other ethnic groups who also have had a long history in this part of our community.

While we do have a concentration of Italian related businesses on some streets included in the new zone, other areas were included that have previously been named for Croatia, such as Ante Perkov Way and the Croatian Cultural Center. The council is concerned that this cultural group was not involved in the "Little Italy" designation.

Furthermore, San Pedro is becoming increasingly diverse. There are middle eastern and asian businesses here. There are also many successful Mexican and El Salvadorean businesses on Pacific Avenue. That street would by far qualify for its own Latin American designation due to the number of hispanic business surpassing Italian businesses three to one.

While your intention may have been to benefit San Pedro's business district, we believe the action taken and the size of the district divides our neighborhood along ethnic lines more than bringing people together.

We request an immediate meeting preferably with you, or your staff, and for the city council to reconsider the borders of this new district. We also urge you to communicate and work with neighborhood councils before future city council actions that might affect economic development, planning or zoning.