

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center Press Statement

Mater Dolorosa Wishes to Clarify Recent Mischaracterizations

May 30, 2014

The Board of Directors of Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center released this statement today, which is attributable to Cameron Thornton, Board Chair:

“Recent mischaracterizations of the proposed development of surplus land at Mater Dolorosa are unfortunate and terribly misleading. In the interest of providing the public with accurate information, we sent a letter today to our neighbors and other interested parties that made these points:

- **There will not be 60 homes built on the proposed site.** As we have said from our earliest communication, any project that is built must and will be compatible with what is around us. For lot sizes to be similar to those of our neighbors there must be fewer than 50 homes. The size of these homes will not be “massive” either. The homes will be approximately 3,800 square feet in size.
- **This will not be a “quick” process driven by “secret” meetings.** We recently selected the developer New Urban West for the project because they share our commitment to a very intensive, long-term, one-on-one type of outreach with the community. That is the best way to hear what is on people’s minds. There has been a “get to know you” meeting with city staff and we have reached out to current and former city leaders, so New Urban West can hear their thoughts and concerns. These are merely introductory meetings, where no decisions are made or actions taken.
- **Funds from the sale of our surplus land will be used to provide for the long-term care of our senior priests and brothers and continue the Passionists’ global mission.** Currently, 77% of the 62 Passionist priests and brothers of Holy Cross Province are age 65 and older. Of all the options we reviewed over the last seven years, the only one that would provide these funds, protect the Mater Dolorosa retreat experience, and be compatible with the homes in surrounding neighborhoods was the single family home option we are now beginning to pursue.

We look forward to formally introducing New Urban West to the community, which we will do later this summer once our Purchase and Sales Agreement Due Diligence period is completed.”

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