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## City Buys Little Tokyo Lot

City officials on Monday closed escrow on a 10-acre site in Little Tokyo that will become a 1,200-space parking lot for municipal workers, said Mark Tarczynski, a broker for CB Richard Ellis who represented the seller Evergreen International. The City Council in August voted to purchase the \$43 million lot on the northeast corner of First and Alameda streets, which will replace a lot on the First Street North block that will likely be torn down to make room for a proposed art park and Children's Museum. Tarczynski said the deal was part of a joint purchase between the city and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which purchased an acre of the land for a Gold Line station. The new parking lot will be paid for using the city's parking and revenue fund. Evergreen at one time had six bidders for the dusty parcel across from the Japanese American National Museum. Developers had envisioned a mixed-use project called Mangrove Estates for the space; it would have included 1,200 units of housing, a 600-room hotel, and offices and retail. Though the project has been scrapped, another more intriguing use for the site has surfaced - a new location for Parker Center. Ron Deaton, the city's chief legislative analyst, has said publicly that the site would be well-suited for a larger, modern police headquarters. The aging site on Los Angeles Street suffered damage during the Northridge earthquake and is too small for the department's needs.