

RULES

MOTION

TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED #51

In 2007, the City Council requested the City Attorney to report on ethics considerations and legal ramifications of the meetings, known as ex-parte communications, which commissioners have with 3rd parties in commission decisions, particularly developers.

That Council Motion, CF 07-3294, introduced by then Councilmember Wendy Greuel, and seconded by Eric Garcetti, Jack Weiss, Bernard Parks, and Ed Reyes led to a City Attorney report recommending multiple changes to the way ex-parte communications should work to improve transparency and due process. That report was never heard in committee and expired.

In 2009, Councilmember Greuel again attempted to enact the City Attorney recommendations into law, introducing a motion, CF 07-3294-S1, seconded by Jose Huizar and Greig Smith, asking the Council to instruct the City Attorney to draft those recommendations into law. That motion was never heard in committee and expired.

Today, we see commissioners frequently conducting ex-parte meetings on sensitive development issues and this has consistently been one of the lightning rods for public criticism and legal action in our development process.

There is a glaring structural problem in our work when developers can contact commissioners outside of commission meetings and make their case in private. Behind closed doors ex parte communications with appointed planning commissioners as well as other quasi-judicial decision-making commissions should be prohibited.

We now have an opportunity to revisit these recommendations made by the City Attorney in 2007 and many current and former elected Los Angeles leaders, and make permanent changes that will increase faith in our development process and in the quasi-judicial and quasi-adjudicative actions taken by our City Commissions.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the matter of Ex Parte Communications / City Commissioners as recorded under Council Files 07-3294 and 07-3294-S1, which expired per Council policy, be re-activated and that the matter be restored to its most recent legislative status as of the date of the File's expiration.

PRESENTED BY: 
DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District


SEP 07 2016

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL