

09-0969-51

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PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

Motion


During 2008 and 2009, the Department of City Planning conducted an exhaustive study of its entitlement processes and fees. The City Council adopted a new schedule of fees for planning entitlement requests on August 5, 2009 (CF# 09-0969) . These fees will result in full-cost recovery except in the areas of work on a single-family home and work involving historic preservation. In addition, the City Council made a policy decision to limit appeal costs and protect the ability of a community to appeal a project it feels was decided in error. The City Council subsequently established an enterprise fund for the Department of City Planning with the intention to limit the Department's reliance on the General Fund.

The original fee ordinance adopted by the City Council anticipated that citywide overhead costs for planning entitlements would be phased-in over a three year period. None of those costs have yet been phased in. These citywide costs range from security provided to the Department to mapping, records and other services provided to the Department of City Planning by other departments.

The City's severe fiscal crisis requires that all available sources of revenue shall be pursued. It is therefore appropriate to accelerate the phase-in of the overhead charge for planning entitlement fees. Fees represent only a small portion of total development costs and are appropriately borne by the applicant who receives a valuable service from the Department of City Planning. This imposition of overhead costs will not alter the standing City Council policy of subsidizing planning fees for single family homes, historic preservation and neighborhood appeals.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Department of City Planning and the City Administrative Officer with the Assistance of the City Attorney report to the PLUM Committee and the Budget & Finance Committee with a draft ordinance establishing immediate full Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) recovery on Department of City Planning entitlement requests.

PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:




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