

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/13/2017

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 11/28/2017

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 09-0969

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The NWSPNC can support Option 1 that would increase appeal fees for non-applicants to

\$271,

a full 300% increase over the existing fees. We oppose any increase in fees above that amount because it would discourage residents and neighborhood groups from appealing decisions of the Department of City Planning that impact their neighborhoods. The full recovery fee of \$13,538, a 15,000% increase in fees, not only makes no logical sense, but it will all but make it impossible for any resident, constituent or community Stakeholder to exercise their right to ensure the City of Los Angeles is not making any mistakes or unwanted exceptions to the community plan in specific areas of the city.

One of the questions considered in the User Fee Study was "Does current demand for services support a fee increase without adverse impact to the citizenry served...?" To this we answer no. The results of any higher fee would silence the public, with the exception of extremely wealthy people who could afford more than \$13,000 to appeal a project they believe is against the Community Plan or specific Zoning of the area in question.

Any increase above \$271 would also seem unreasonable in light of the study of other cities that showed that most of them have fees below that amount. The fact of the matter is that the Department of City Planning, does make mistakes and this system is in place to be fair to all Angelinos to challenge a decision or potential approval at a reasonable cost.

We would like to see, in writing, line item by line item, how a non-applicant appeal could possibly cost more than \$13,000 and recommend that the Department examine ways to reduce the cost.

Finally, whatever fee is adopted for applicants or non-applicant appeals, the ordinance should be amended to state that failure to appeal should not be used as a defense by the City in an action for mandamus in a court of law.