

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(22) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 12/20/2017

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 12/26/2017

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 09-0969

Agenda Date: 12/20/2017

Item Number: 24.

Summary: The BABCNC opposes Amending Sections 19.00 through 19.10 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to Update Fees for Applications and Appeals for Planning Approvals.

The BABCNC understands that the City is considering increasing the fees for land use appeals and that some in the City are advocated for "full cost recovery" (which is estimated to be around \$13,000). The BABCNC is strongly opposed to the proposed fee increase. The fundamental flaw in the City's logic is premised on the assumption that these appeals serve no benefit or value. On the contrary, these appeals often result in better projects. Developers often modify their projects to address community concerns and/or agree to new conditions of approval as a result of appeals. This is a net positive for the community even if there are additional costs borne by the City to process the appeal. The mere fact that the City does not receive a financial benefit does not mean that the City and community does not ultimately benefit (both from a financial and pecuniary perspective). Moreover, these appeals spur additional community input which, again, often results in concessions and better projects. Further, in many situations, errors explained in appeal justification letters often result in corrections. Certainly, compliance with the law is a good thing for the community and the City. Other times, appeals are granted in their entirety when particularly egregious mistakes are made. We are all human and mistakes happen. The appeal process provides a venue to ensure mistakes are corrected. Finally, in some instances, for example, the 8150 Sunset Boulevard project, settlements are reached and community benefit funds are established that would have not otherwise been possible. These are all products of the appeal process. Increasing the appeal fees creates a giant barrier to entry and this is not beneficial to either the community or the City.