

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(1) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/07/2017

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 09/10/2017

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 09-0969

Agenda Date:

Item Number: 19

Summary: The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council therefore requests the City put a hold on any further action on increasing appeal fees for parties other than the applicant until there is adequate time for all interested parties, including homeowners, businesses and neighborhood associations, to assimilate all relevant documentation, and provide a 60-day comment period to obtain input from those who will be affected.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Post Office Box 50791
Los Angeles, CA 90050
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

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Daniel Andalon FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
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DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

200 N. Spring St. Ste.2005
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Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

September 7, 2017

Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Attorney Mike Feuer

Re: CF 09-0969 – Appeal fees re-evaluation requested

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council which represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood call on the City Council to include Neighborhood Councils and stakeholders in addressing any change to appeal fees.

In December 2016, the Department of City Planning (DCP) had recommended tripling the appeal fee for anyone other than the applicant but on July 26, 2017, the City Administrative Office (CAO) recommended a hike of over 15,200%. On August 8th, the DCP and CAO responded to a request from the Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUM) with 5 options for charging appeal fees and consideration for a hardship exemption. However, these exemptions can constrain stakeholder action, making it more difficult to pursue an appeal and giving developers and their reams of layers more opportunities to get legitimate appeals thrown out.

CF 09-0969 – Appeal fees re-evaluation requested

While we support the City's need to balance its budget, there are times when it is NOT appropriate to demand full cost recovery (that fees charged cover all the expenses the City may incur) and this is one of them. There was good reason why this increase, using the same Council File, was halted in 2009 – it is patently unfair to a homeowner or community association to have to come up with the same fees multi-million dollar developers can absorb as a cost of doing business.

Property owners and renters pay property taxes, sales taxes and other fees to support City services. And the City government – so it can go to bat for the little guy.

We understand that a motion is currently still under discussion by PLUM and the DCP. We request Neighborhood Councils be provided with documentation on how these costs were determined, and that they, CEQA and other interested parties are given a 60-day comment period provided for in the City Charter before this is brought to a vote again.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council therefore respectfully requests the City put a hold further action on this motion until there is adequate time for all interested parties, including homeowners, businesses and neighborhood associations, to assimilate all relevant documentation and obtain input from those who will be affected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Harvey Slater', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Harvey Slater, President
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council