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January 25, 2011

Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Clerk
John Ferraro Council Chamber, Room 340, City Hall
200 N Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Sent via email

Subject: Los Angeles City Council Supplemental Agenda for
January 25, 2011, Item No. 12, Council File No. 11-0086

Honorable Council Members:

Please accept my formal objections to Supplemental Agenda Item No. 12, LA City Council File No. 11-0086. This supplements my objections which were submitted for the record to the CRA/LA Commissioners and the City Attorney via email on January 14, 2011 (prior to the start of the CRA/LA meeting) and on January 15, 2011 (which referred to changes of the meeting notice AFTER the start of the meeting) and on January 18, 2011 to your Honorable body.

The item before you today is based on actions taken by the CRA/LA on Friday, January 14, 2011, which were in clear violation of the Brown Act.

Also the CRA/LA CEO had a clear financial conflict of interest in violation of State and City Ethics laws when she participated in the preparation and presentation of a plan to "save the CRA/LA," her job, and attempt shield public funds by contractually obligating the funds in advanced of a publicly announced planned by the Governor of California.

New Information Related to Conflicts of Interest

Since my previous submission, new information was revealed by on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at a meeting of the Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils by Mr. James Dantona of the CRA/LA described under Article 4 of this letter.

1. CRA/LA Action Report Based on Meeting Held that was in Violation of the Brown Act

The meeting of the CRA/LA on January 14, 2011 was in violation of the Brown Act and therefore the action taken by the CRA on that date should be invalidated and not considered today under Agenda Item 12.

During the CRA/LA meeting the CRA Commissioners and others discussed business that was not agendized on its official notice. Items related to salary and benefits of current CRA/LA employees was also discussed, but not noticed. Furthermore the amount of funds to be discussed was substantially changed from \$855,000,000 to \$930,000,000.

Also the report made available to the public during the meeting was changed during and after the meeting without providing copies to the public.

The on-line notice was revised AFTER the 24-hour notice period expired. I transmitted my objections via email to the CRA/LA Commissioners and the City Attorney.

2. Agenda Item 12 Should Be Pulled and Not Heard Until After the January 14, 2011 CRA/LA Special Meeting is Corrected

Since Agenda Item 12 is based on actions taken by the CRA/LA during their Special Meeting of January 14, 2011 which was in violation of the Brown Act, any Action taken today would be invalidated.

3. State and City Ethics Laws

Since my previous submissions, new information was revealed on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at a meeting of the Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils. This meeting was recorded on Video.

In response to a question about the preparation of a report prior to the CRA/LA's special meeting of January 14, 2011, Mr. James Dantona Assistant to the Administrator/CEO of the CRA/LA, revealed that 4 members of the CRA/LA's executive team including CEO Christine Essel met on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 to discuss and prepare the plan that was to be presented to the CRA/LA Commissioners in a Special meeting scheduled for January 14, 2011.

The CRA/LA Board of Commissioners discussed, added, and voted on the inclusion of a successor entity managed by the "CEO, Chris Essel" as described in material excerpted from the Report.

"Instruct Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to negotiate within the Cooperation Agreement the designation of a Successor Entity to implement the work program on behalf of the City upon the conclusion of CRA/LA's statutory authority; and, that such Entity be either a non-profit organization or development corporation approved by the City Council and managed by the CEO. Chris Essel with support from designated members of her management team and staff."

See CRA/LA Report of January 14, 2011 under CF No. 11-0086: http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2011/11-0086_rpt_cra_1-14-11.pdf

Under this proposal, both the CEO and "designated members of her management team and staff" would be retained.

This clearly demonstrates that Ms. Essel, Mr. James Dantona and at least two other members of the CRA/LA Executive Team at the January 12, 2011 meeting all had clear financial conflicts of interest that cannot be undone by revisions or alterations to the report.

Based on this, the Action of the CRA/LA Board should be invalidated. If necessary, a new plan and report should be prepared by persons without financial conflicts of interest.

4. My Original Objections Emailed Prior to the CRA/LA Board Meeting

I am submitting by reference all objections to the CRA/LA Agenda Item 2 discussed and acted on during its January 14, 2011 Special Meeting.

Sincerely,
Robert Blue
Robert Blue
Attachments

C: Los Angeles City Attorney Trutanich

Executive Office

