



# Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa

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August 8, 2013

Honorable Councilmember Mike Bonin  
Los Angeles City Council, CD11  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 11-0923 - Art Murals Citywide Program / Mural Ordinance

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Dear Councilmember Bonin,

On August 7, 2013, the Neighborhood Council voted to oppose ending the moratorium on murals on private property that was enacted in 2003 but, if ended, support the City Attorney's "Version B" of the draft ordinance with conditions.

In regard to Versions A and B of the draft ordinance relating to the regulation of original art murals submitted by the Los Angeles City Attorney on 6-17-2013, the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa (NCWP) takes the following positions:

SUPPORT Version B on the Condition that the Seven (7) Revisions Set Forth Below are Incorporated:

1. Murals shall be clearly prohibited in all residential zones on all dwellings, including but not limited to single family homes and apartment buildings.
2. Communities that wish to allow murals in residential zones shall be required to apply for permission to allow murals in such zones, using currently available Planning processes; or via a less time-consuming "streamlined" process to be developed and set forth pursuant to the ordinance.
3. Existing murals shall be clearly grandfathered.
4. "Digitally printed images" shall be prohibited and/or not included within the definition of "Original Art Mural." If included, the term "digitally printed images" shall be defined with greater clarity; any definition shall specifically exclude images in all residential zones which extend around corners and cover more than one exterior wall (commonly known as "building wraps").
5. The "Neighborhood Involvement Requirement" (Sec. 22.119 (b)(3)) shall set forth key administrative rules relative to notice and procedures for holding the required community meeting, including without limitation a requirement that the applicant shall confer in advance with the applicable Neighborhood and/or Community Council to arrange an acceptable time, at a regularly scheduled meeting of such Council, for the required

community review and comment on the proposed mural, and that the applicant shall be responsible for required mailing and posting of notice on-site at least 45 days prior to the meeting. "Community Councils" shall be expressly added, along with Neighborhood Councils and Business Improvement Districts, as entities entitled to receive notice.

6. The term "commercial message" shall be defined with greater clarity; specifically, the following language shall replace the definition of "Original Art Mural" (Section I): "A one-of-a-kind, hand-painted, hand-tiled [or digitally printed, if this language is retained] image on the exterior wall of a building that does not function as or contain any commercial message and for which nothing of value has been given to the owner or person in control of the building. For definition purposes, a commercial message is any message that advertises a business conducted, services rendered, or products or goods produced for sale or purchase."

7. Specific enforcement procedures and funding sources for enforcement shall be provided.

This is a matter that can have significant quality of life and property value implications and needs to be carefully considered. We appreciate your being mindful of the challenges related to the City's ability to monitor, control and enforce the ordinance and the potentially negative impacts on our residential neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Cyndi Hench*

Cyndi Hench  
NCWP President

cc: Councilperson Cedillo  
Councilperson Krekorian  
Councilperson Blumenfield  
Councilperson LaBonge  
Councilperson Koretz  
Councilperson Martinez  
Councilperson Fuentes  
Councilperson Parks  
Councilperson Price  
Councilperson Wesson  
Councilperson Englander  
Councilperson Huizar  
Councilperson O'Farrell  
Councilperson Busciano  
Sharon Gil, Planning and Land Use Management