



## PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

June 20, 2013

Los Angeles City Council  
City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attn: Hon. Herb Wesson, Council President  
Ms. June Lagmay, City Clerk, Rm. 360

**Re: CF 11-0923 - Mural Ordinance  
Request Ordinance Return to Committee for Further Consideration (Review/Input)**

Dear President Wesson and all Los Angeles City Council Members:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been the voice of the Pacific Palisades for more than 40 years. The Pacific Palisades community supports the arts and is proud of existing murals which have long graced several of our public spaces. PPCC has been generally supportive of the concept of an ordinance which would allow murals under certain circumstances. We have previously expressed concerns to the Planning Department about some aspects of earlier versions of the proposed Mural Ordinance.

We have now learned that the Director of Planning has disapproved the revised Ordinance as directed by PLUM and the City Attorney has expressed concerns about the revised Ordinance and submitted two versions, Version A and Version B, for consideration by the Council.

In light of these developments, we believe strongly that the Mural Ordinance should be referred back to committee and reconsidered for further review and community input. PPCC and other community and neighborhood councils have had insufficient time to thoroughly review and consider the proposed revisions. However, based on an initial review we have numerous concerns about the revised Mural Ordinance, including without limitation the following eleven (11) concerns:

1. Whether murals should be prohibited in R1, on single-family homes or any other dwellings, and/or in all other residential zones;
2. Whether murals on any dwellings in residential zones should be limited to areas that are not visible from the public right of way (e.g., back yard fences, rear walls no higher than one-story);
3. Whether communities that wish to have murals should be required to enact specific plans to *allow* murals on single-family homes (Version B) or on other dwellings in residential zones, and not the other way around (Version A);



# BRENTWOOD Community Council

149 S. Barrington Ave., Box 194, Los Angeles, CA 90049

[www.brentwoodcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.brentwoodcommunitycouncil.org)

July 19, 2013

Councilmember Jose Huizar, Chair

Planning Committee

City Hall, Room 395

200 North Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent Via Email: [Councilmember.Huizar@lacity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Huizar@lacity.org)

## **RE: Mural Ordinance CF 11-0923**

Dear Councilmember Huizar,

The Brentwood Community Council (“BCC”) is the broadest based Brentwood community organization.<sup>1</sup> We request that the ordinance be directed back to committee to consider the following:

1. The Ordinance originally excluded residential properties of fewer than 5 units. CPC reduced that to two or fewer units. There should be a carve out for residential (R1) properties that has now been included.
2. Should it be merely community input required to allow a mural, or should process have a place for a community veto? If 50% of homes on a block can stop a speed bump from going in, shouldn't they also be able to approve or stop a mural? This would call for discussion of persuasion by the artists and residents and make the result more meaningful.

The ordinance does not include a strong tool to keep the characteristics of neighborhoods in tact.

3. Murals in R1 might be considered if *not* visible from the prow.

<sup>1</sup>The Brentwood Community Council represents approximately 50,000 stakeholders of the 90049 community. BCC includes homeowners associations, multi-family residential dwellers, business organizations, schools, religious groups, volunteer service groups, public safety and environmental organizations.

4. Illumination of murals is of concern particularly near residential zones.
5. Enforcement must be considered the key to a successful program. If it is not done, there is no control and communities have the burden of enforcement.

BCC supported the Mural Ordinance before changes were made. It is crucial that there be a carve out for R1. True, some neighborhoods are content with the added R1 space, but others would not be and should be afforded an opportunity to opt out, or modify where they would like murals to be done in their own communities.

Please bring this ordinance back to committee to have a dialogue with community in put. The moratorium has been hard on those who make a living doing murals and it needs to be resolved in due time. But, it must not be rushed, the latest changes must be revisited, and it must satisfy all communities to the extent that it possibly can to be a lasting document to service all Angelenos.

We thank you for the work you do for The City of Los Angeles.

Regards,



Nancy Freedman  
Chair, Brentwood Community Council  
[GJF165@gmail.com](mailto:GJF165@gmail.com)

Cc: Councilmember Mike Bonin  
Norman Kulla, Senior Council, CD11  
Councilmember Gilbert A. Cedillo  
Councilmember Mitchell Englander

<sup>1</sup>The Brentwood Community Council represents approximately 50,000 stakeholders of the 90049 community. BCC includes homeowners associations, multi-family residential dwellers, business organizations, schools, religious groups, volunteer service groups, public safety and environmental organizations.

Phone: 310-472-9775 Fax: 310-471-7478 Email: [GJF165@gmail.com](mailto:GJF165@gmail.com)

4. Whether a 90-day waiting period before the Ordinance becomes operative would be sufficient time for enactment of specific plans either to allow or disallow murals on single-family homes or other dwellings in residential zones;
5. Whether illumination of murals should be allowed at all and in particular on any dwellings in or near residential zones;
6. Whether the ordinance's definition of a "commercial message" is clear, adequate and/or sufficient;
7. Whether the ordinance's definition of "digitally printed image" is clear, adequate and/or sufficient, and whether the definition of "Original Art Mural" should include "digitally printed" images;
8. Whether the "administrative rules" governing the "Neighborhood Involvement Requirement" should be adopted and set forth in the Ordinance prior to its enactment, and whether the provisions for notice and community involvement are adequate;
9. Whether existing murals are or should be clearly grandfathered under the Ordinance, and under what circumstances;
10. Whether any aspects of the Ordinance may impact public safety and/or quiet enjoyment of residential property, including the height and illumination provisions;
11. Whether there will be sufficient enforcement of the Ordinance provisions.

PPCC submits that there is no need for the Council to enact this Ordinance without thorough consideration and input by all affected constituencies. A measured and deliberate approach going forward is especially appropriate due to the Planning Director's disapproval and the City Attorney's expression of concerns and submittal of two alternative versions of the Ordinance.

PPCC urges the City Council to return the Mural Ordinance to committee for further input and consideration. PPCC requests that our letter be included in the record and filed in CF 11-0923.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kohn  
President, PPCC

cc:

Michael J. Logrande, Director of Planning  
Hon. Ed P. Reyes, President Pro Tempore  
Hon. Tom LaBonge, Assistant President Pro Tempore  
Hon. Bill Rosendahl  
Hon. Richard Alarcon  
Hon. Joe Buscaino  
Hon. Mitchell Englander  
Hon. Eric Garcetti  
Hon. Jose Huizar  
Hon. Hon. Paul Koretz  
Hon. Bernard Parks  
Hon. Jan Perry  
Hon. Dennis Zine

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