



Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>

Fwd: Comment on "Council File #12-0303 Hollywood Community Plan

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>

Thu, May 17, 2012 at 9:00 AM

To: Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>, Kevin Keller <kevin.keller@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Susan <sswanla@aol.com>

Date: Wed, May 16, 2012 at 9:42 PM

Subject: Comment on "Council File #12-0303 Hollywood Community Plan

To: Sharon.Gin@lacity.org

Cc: sswanla@aol.com

Hi Sharon,

I'd like to submit the below comment on "Council File #12-0303 Hollywood Community Plan for the record. Would you please also email this to the Councilmembers as I believe it's going to Council but the date is uncertain?

Thank you very much,

Susan Swan

President

Hollywood United Neighborhood Council

To whom it may concern,

Let me tell you a little about why Hollywood United.. and my community.. has never supported the proposed Hollywood Community Plan. A little about me. I've lived in the Oaks with my husband since 1984. We helped found the Oaks Homeowners Assn and we both served on its board, myself for 7 years including 3 as president. When secession was proposed, I fought to preserve Hollywood in L.A. A decision that many regret, now. Afterwards, when the sop of Neighborhood Empowerment was put forth in the form of Neighborhood Councils, I worked hard to get it up and running, with the assistance of many in my community. We overcame our differences because of our love for Hollywood. Do we all have different visions? Sure. But isn't that what community is all about. Our original Hollywood Neighborhood Council became, instead, 6 Hollywood-area Neighborhood Councils, with many of us still serving on their boards, unified by our community. We deliberately designed our boundaries to have each of the 6 include a piece of Hollywood Blvd. And we have communicated regularly over the past decade.

So the proposed Hollywood Community Plan comes along, and presentations are made to our NC. Imagine our surprise when instead of seeing the 'vision' for Hollywood, we are shown only that part that is within our boundaries. When we ask why, we are told that the assumption is that we are not interested in anything outside our boundaries. A divide-and-conquer position.

But we want change, we want something good to happen. For too many years, all plans for Hollywood focused West. We see potential. But we have very little influence due to the way that the Council districts are drawn. So we try to enable change through the Neighborhood Council system without becoming as bureaucratic as the City. We see our role as facilitators, to enable people to ask 'why' and 'how' and voice opinions.

You've read our letters. But over and above that, there is real dismay in our community that the opportunity to make Hollywood a world-class destination is slipping away to these 'Manhattanization' fantasies. We have always said that we love Manhattan.. in New York. What kind of vision takes Hollywood and wants Manhattan? Virtually a 'Century City East'. NO vision there. And yet this is Councilmember Garcetti's vision. Where is the Smart Growth? The utilization of the attractions that are Hollywood? Many of us have lived here for years. We've seen Universal Studios build City Walk.. an ersatz Hollywood, and we've wondered why not here. We've seen the Grove built. We've watched Pasadena step up to the plate and give us Old Town Pasadena, a well-thought-out vision of what could be here. What do we get? A flood of nightclubs. High-rises. With absolutely no infrastructure repaired or built to accommodate it. Our roads and sidewalks are pitiable. The famous intersection of Sunset and Vine has a traffic control system with no left-turn signals. Seriously? We're told that changes will come. When? Feet on the ground tells you that there is no system or plan in place. The plan is built on hot air, on studies that have been disproven, population projections that have been inflated.

So our Neighborhood Council has steadfastly rejected the Hollywood Community Plan in total, since 2010. We are asking that it go back to the drawing board. We want assurances that the transportation and infrastructure issues be dealt with now.. not after the fact. The whole thing is built on hot air and we all know what happens to balloons.

respectfully,

Susan Swan

President and a proud founding Boardmember of Hollywood United Neighborhood Council