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PLUM Hearing 4-24-12 File Number 12-0460, Agenda Item #1

1 message

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Tue, Apr 24, 2012 at
1:20 AM

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Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Hearing Date: April 24, 2012

File Number 12-0460, Agenda Item #1

Re: Support for the Request to Fund a Comprehensive Zoning Code Revision

Chair Reyes, and Councilmembers Huizar and Englander:

[1]

The Brentwood Residents Coalition (BRC) is writing in support of the Department of City Planning's request to fund a comprehensive revision of the City's antiquated Zoning Code. The last comprehensive revision was in 1946 -- 66 years ago. As a result, the Zoning Code has been "revised" in a piecemeal manner over a very long period of time, which is why it is now more than 600 pages long and virtually indecipherable. The City is in desperate need of a more concise, understandable, predictable, accessible and rational Zoning Code. This project is long overdue.

But this ambitious plan to revise the Zoning Code carries substantial risks. Powerful interest groups have strong economic incentives to refashion the Zoning Code to their own liking and to the detriment of the general public. It is therefore critical that the process remain transparent and that a broad array of public input be sought. The Planning Department proposal recognizes this need by calling for (1) a "Public Advisory Committee" comprised of individuals with a broad range of expertise and experience, from community advocates to developers, and (2) many Public Participation Forums that will occur throughout the City during each of the project's many phases.

Most importantly, we have confidence in the Planning Department's Code Studies Unit based on our extensive working relationship with its members. Over the past few years, the BRC has worked and continues to work closely with the Code Studies Unit on a number of important Zoning Code Ordinances, including the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, Core Findings, Modified Parking Requirements, Multiple Approvals, Clean Hands and the Retaining Wall Ordinance. In our experience in working with Planning Staff, input from all sides has led to balanced and sound Zoning regulations. If a comprehensive Zoning Code revision is established in the same transparent and inclusive manner, we believe the Code Studies Staff will deliver an exceptional Zoning Code to the City of Los Angeles.

For these reasons, the BRC urges you to support the Planning Department's application to fund a comprehensive revision of the Zoning Code.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Wendy-Sue Rosen, Tom Freeman & Donald G. Keller
Brentwood Residents Coalition

[1]

The Brentwood Residents Coalition is a grass roots, non-profit advocacy group whose purposes are to preserve and enhance the environment and quality of life in Brentwood, to protect the integrity of residential neighborhoods, to assist with planning, to uphold zoning and municipal codes, to encourage traffic safety, and to educate the public on issues that affect quality of life and the environment.