

From: **Saltair Neighbors** <saltairneighbors@me.com>

Date: Sun, May 13, 2012 at 6:17 PM

Subject: Proposed creation of a Condition Compliance Unit

To: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org

Cc: chris.koontz@lacity.org, ERIKA.PULST@lacity.org, Councilmember.Englander@lacity.org,
Koretz Paul <Paul.Koretz@lacity.org>, Cardenas Tony <councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org>,
Rosendahl Bill <bill.rosendahl@lacity.org>

May 13, 2012

Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Budget and Finance Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Room 445
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Proposed 2012-2013 Budget for City Planning Department

Dear Chair Krekorian and Budget Committee Members,

Saltair Neighbors, an active group of single family homeowners in Brentwood, is deeply concerned with the City of Los Angeles' ability to enforce its planning and zoning regulations to protect neighborhood quality of life. For years we have advocated for improved enforcement but sadly resources in this area have been cut by the City - year after year. We spend hours of our time attending hearings and appeals, writing letters and meeting with City Planners to construct protections for our neighborhoods from the impacts of unregulated development. We are frequently told, "Yes, this business is in violation of its CUP or its CUB or is out of compliance with various conditions, but there is no way for us to enforce it. We are therefore incredibly disappointed that the Mayor's proposed 2012-2013 Budget does not contain a request from the Department of City Planning for a Condition Compliance Unit.

We are writing to ask that the Condition Compliance Unit be added back into the final budget by the City Council. This unit will generate fee revenue and is paid for out of a special fund. Most critically this unit is absolutely necessary to protect the quality of life within neighborhoods. Under the present system, conditions imposed by the Planning Department are oftentimes disregarded, no entity actively enforces those conditions, and it is not only neighborhoods that suffer but also businesses that do follow all the rules at considerable expense only to have their economic competitors operate in violation with impunity.

Sincerely,

Elin Schwartz
Saltair Neighbors

From: **Wallace Diskin** <walruskool@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Sun, May 13, 2012 at 9:43 AM

Subject: Proposed 2012-2013 Budget for City Planning Department

To: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org

Cc: chris.koontz@lacity.org, erika.pulst@lacity.org, bill.rosendahl@lacity.org, Paul.Koretz@lacity.org, councilman.cardenas@lacity.org, councilman.englander@lacity.org

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Budget Committee Members,

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, I am deeply concerned (and distressed) with the City of Los Angeles' ability to enforce its planning and zoning regulations to protect my neighborhood's quality of life. It is an incredible disappointment that the Mayor's proposed 2012-2013 Budget does not contain a request from the Department of City Planning for a "Condition Compliance Unit".

Here in our community, we have organized neighbors to fund raise and hire attorneys to get the city and/or planning departments to enforce their own codes. This is unconscionable and the burden to oversee greedy developers should not be that of the neighbors. I am writing to ask that the "Condition Compliance Unit" be added back into the final budget by the City by the City Council. This unit will generate fee revenue and is paid out of a special fund, most critically this Unit is absolutely necessary to protect quality of life within neighborhoods. Under the present system, conditions imposed by the Planning Department are oftentimes disregarded, no entity actively enforces those conditions, and it is not only neighborhoods that suffer but also businesses that do follow all the rules at considerable expense only to have their economic competitors operate in violation with impunity.

We thank you for your immediate consideration of the foregoing.

From: **Nan Waldman** <n.waldman.esq@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, May 13, 2012 at 2:11 PM
Subject: Proposed 2012-2013 Budget for City Planning Department
To: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org
Cc: ERIKA.PULST@lacity.org

Date: May 12, 2012

From: Nan Waldman, Esq., Parenting and Education Counsel

To: Councilmember Paul Krekorian

Chairman, City of Los Angeles Budget and Finance Committee

200 N. Spring Street, Room 445

Los Angeles CA 90012

Re: Proposed 2012-2013 Budget for City Planning Department

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Budget Committee Members,

The Mayor's proposed Budget for 2012-2013 does not include provision for a Condition Compliance Unit for the Department of City Planning. This is a terrible oversight and I am quite concerned on my own behalf as a citizen, and a Native Angelina. I am also concerned on behalf of those who will be adversely affected by the City of Los Angeles' inability to enforce its planning and zoning regulations to protect the quality of life in our neighborhoods all over Los Angeles.

Our infrastructure is suffering everywhere: as the years pass, there has been steadily increasing need for improved enforcement -- but sadly resources in this area have been cut by the City to the point where there is now no effective City planning because enforcement is almost nonexistent. I am personally horrified that the Mayor's proposed 2012-2013 Budget does not contain a request from the Department of City Planning for a Condition Compliance Unit. Lack of compliance in City Planning is a source of potential nightmares for the City and its residents -- and visitors. It is only a matter of time before something unwanted occurs which adequate oversight could have avoided. I have a feeling the City will want to prevent anything reasonably foreseeably by tasking a Condition Compliance Unit with setting reasonable priorities and meeting set goals.

Please add the Condition Compliance Unit back into the final budget by the City Council. Doing so will generate fee revenue paid for out of a special fund. This unit is absolutely necessary to protect each unique neighborhood's quality of life. Today, conditions imposed by the Planning Department are too often disregarded because there is no entity to actively enforce or regulate conditions which violate the City Planning Rules and regulations.

Also, businesses that do follow all the rules at considerable time and expense are at a competitive disadvantage when their economic competitors operate in violation -- with impunity.

The unfair, unequal, mysterious way that City Planning enforcement currently seems to be implemented must change.

I urge you to make that change, now, by including in the Budget for City Planning an adequate enforcement arm through ample funding of the Condition Compliance Unit. It must be included as provision in the Budget. The alternative is unthinkable.

Sincerely,

Nan Waldman, Esq.
Parenting and Education Counsel
15760 Ventura Blvd., Suite 2024
Encino CA 91436