

(Posted on Department of City Planning Website)

4/22/2013 5:32:44 PM

D. Malcolm Carson
Community Health Councils
malcolm@chc-inc.org
323-295-1237

Community Health Councils would like to congratulate the City's leaders for taking these needed steps towards a better, more effective planning and development process. Working with communities where there has historically been a lack of consistent enforcement of building and planning codes, we applaud efforts to create better coordination between the planning process and the code enforcement process. And given the great need in many parts of South Los Angeles and other underserved communities for new development, facilitating the city permitting process for good developments that conform with the general plan is a welcome change.

We do have a couple of concerns, however. First, in the rush to create a department that better facilitates development, we urge the City to ensure that long-range planning is not de-emphasized. Creating and sticking to sound, consistent plans is a key part of the process of improving our communities, notwithstanding the particular development issues facing the City at any given time. Second, combining enforcement and planning under the same roof raises the risk that enforcement will be increasingly lost in the shuffle of budgets and departmental priorities. We urge the City to adopt concrete measures to ensure that our planning and building codes are enforced fully and equally across the entire city.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan, and please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns.

D. Malcolm Carson
Policy Director