



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fwd: PLUM Case File Nos. 13-0046 & 12-0600-S97

1 message

RosenFree@aol.com <RosenFree@aol.com>

Tue, Apr 23, 2013 at 2:37 AM

To: Etta.Armstrong@lacity.org, Patrice.Lattimore@lacity.org

From: RosenFree@aol.com
To: sharon.gin@lacity.org
Sent: 4/23/2013 2:25:48 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: PLUM Case File Nos. 13-0046 & 12-0600-S97
Sharon:

Please distribute the Brentwood Residents Coalition letter (attached) to the members of the PLUM Committee for the Tuesday, April 23, 2013 PLUM hearing, Item No. 2, Proposed Consolidation of the Departments of City Planning and Building and Safety, Case File Nos. 13-0046 & 12-0600-S97. Thank you, Wendy

Brentwood Residents Coalition

April 23, 2013

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
 200 N. Spring Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012-4801

Re: Proposed Consolidation of the Depts. Of City Planning and Building & Safety
 Case File Nos. 13-0046 & 12-0600-S97

Dear Councilmembers Reyes, Huizar, and Englander:

The Brentwood Residents Coalition (“BRC”)[1] supports the proposed consolidation of the Department of Building and Safety into the Department of City Planning as well as the further consolidation of other land use and development functions currently undertaken by other City agencies into the restructured Planning Department. It is essential, however, that the implementing ordinance contain a preamble emphasizing that the newly-configured Planning Department’s mission remains focused on the protection and quality of our City’s neighborhoods and communities as well as on the promotion of business and development.

Further, a Citizens Advisory Committee should be established to ensure meaningful public input into the drafting of the proposed consolidation ordinance.

The City Council motions giving rise to the proposed consolidation and the Planning Department's report on the proposal emphasize the need to achieve procedural efficiencies in land use and planning processes to promote development. We are concerned that this focus not be misconstrued as a diminished commitment to the City's neighborhoods and communities.

The purpose of the proposed consolidation is to streamline land use and planning administration by eliminating procedural inefficiencies. This is consistent with existing land use regulations that (1) protect and promote healthy and sustainable neighborhoods and (2) require transparent decision-making processes informed by robust public participation. The laudable goal of "streamlining" is not and cannot be mistaken as a euphemism for "rubber stamping" development projects regardless of the impacts on our neighborhoods and communities.

To assure that the purpose of consolidation is not misinterpreted, there must be a strong statutory preamble emphasizing that the newly-aligned Department's mission encompasses a commitment to eliminating procedural inefficiencies that inhibit development while maintaining the integrity of land use regulations that guarantee meaningful public input, transparent decisional processes, and neighborhood and community protections. We propose the following preamble:

Preamble – Mission of Department of City Planning and Development.

In conformance with the City's general, community and specific plans, the mission of the Department of City Planning and Development is to create, implement and enforce policies, programs and codes that realize a vision of Los Angeles as a collection of healthy, safe, and sustainable communities and neighborhoods. The Department strives to ensure that each community and neighborhood has a distinct sense of place, based on a foundation of mobility, economic vitality, and improved quality of life for all of its residents. Relying on timely and transparent processes, the Department carries out this mission through ongoing and inclusive engagement with the City's diverse communities and neighborhoods.

This preamble is modeled on the Planning Department's current mission statement. It is critical that this continuity of mission be stated explicitly in the implementing ordinance, to assure that consolidation does not impair or impede the Planning Department's historic

function in assuring balanced development with due regard for neighborhood and community protection.

It is also essential that the community have input into the proposed ordinance through creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee. The Committee would participate with Planning Department Staff and the consulting firm hired to fully integrate the functions recommended in the report.

For these reasons, the BRC supports the proposed consolidation on the condition that the implementing ordinance contains the necessary preamble and a Citizens Advisory Committee is formed.

Sincerely,

Wendy-Sue Rosen, President
Brentwood Residents Coalition

[1] The BRC 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.

 **BRCLetterPlanning-DBSConsolidation.pdf**
100K

BRENTWOOD RESIDENTS COALITION

ZONING | LAND USE | PLANNING | ENVIRONMENTAL

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BRENTWOOD RESIDENTS COALITION

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Wendy-Sue Rosen, President
Brentwood Residents Coalition