As you know, the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) has failed. Egregiously oversized houses continue to spoil the scale and character of single-family neighborhoods. My neighborhood is one of them. Indeed, at this very moment, a gigantic, over-sized, and boxy mansion that is totally inappropriate for the street and neighborhood is rising on my block. The new owner tore down the original historic home and is constructing a monstrosity that dwarfs his neighbors, eliminates sunlight, and destroys the character of the neighborhood. Supposedly, this project conforms with the BMO and all applicable city ordinances. If true, that just shows that the BMO in its current form is totally ineffective at achieving its stated goals, and must be amended.

As an example, a change.org petition shows one of the McMansions that has blighted Faircrest Heights, and provides comments from residents of Council Districts 5 and 10 who are gravely concerned about mansionization.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=efe67d07b5&view=pt&search=inbox&th=14787cc400c97973&siml=14787cc400c97973
Neighbors all over the city— including ours—are clamoring for relief, requesting RFA overlays to protect us from reckless development. Even with recently-announced staff increases, keeping up with that demand will be a challenge. Enforcing city code across a patchwork of overlays could be a real headache, too. Councilmember Koretz has offered a smart and sensible solution with his motion to amend the BMO. While his motion would not preclude ordinances tailored to specific neighborhoods, the amendments will almost certainly eliminate a big part of the problem—and fast.

As you know, PLUM will consider Councilmember Koretz’s Motion this coming Tuesday. I urge you to give it your full support.

- The base floor area ratio for R-1 lots is excessive. Ratchet it down.
- Eliminate the pointless ‘green’ building bonus. Building sensibly sized homes does much more to shrink our carbon footprint than bamboo flooring and other so-called ‘green’ building practices, which are required by code anyway.
- Attached garages add 400 square feet of bloat and eliminate the driveways that provide an essential buffer between lots. Eliminate the exemption and count this square footage.
- Eliminate the other self-defeating design bonuses for items like double-height entryways and balconies, which add hundreds of square feet of uncounted bulk and still leave us with McMansions that loom over our neighbors’ homes.
- Make the project approval process transparent to the public.

Thoughtful development puts a premium on environmental and economic sustainability, neighborhood integrity, and a sense of community. These simple amendments could be prepared and adopted quickly, to protect neighborhoods being ravaged by unchecked, short-term real estate speculation and reckless development. They will allow renovations, expansions, and new construction that can accommodate modern family life while respecting the scale and character of established neighborhoods.

Every day brings more damage to more treasured L.A. neighborhoods, and we need your support desperately, and soon.

Sincerely,

Jeremy D. Matz
800 south block of Ridgeley Drive
Board Member. Miracle Mile Residential Association

Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=efee67dcd5&view=pt&search=inbox&th=14787cc400c97973&siml=14787cc400c97973
Dear Committee Member:

You have already received a letter advocating for changes such as proposed by Council Member Koretz. I support that position and just want to add that bigger houses also means more stuff inside. Learning to limit our "stuff" is important to the larger community as well as to the neighbors.

Thank you.

Ken Star

Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org
Dear Members of the Planning & Land Use Management Committee,

As you know, the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) has failed. Egregiously oversized houses continue to spoil the scale and character of single-family neighborhoods. Faircrest Heights (Council District 10) is one of them. Our change.org petition shows one of the McMansions that has blighted Faircrest Heights, and provides comments from neighbors who are gravely concerned about mansionization.
Neighborhoods all over the city – including ours – are clamoring for relief, requesting RFA overlays to protect us from reckless development. Even with recently-announced staff increases, keeping up with that demand will be a challenge. Enforcing city code across a patchwork of overlays could be a real headache, too. Councilmember Koretz has offered a smart and sensible solution with his motion to amend the BMO. While his motion would not preclude ordinances tailored to specific neighborhoods, the amendments will almost certainly eliminate a big part of the problem – and fast.

As you know, PLUM will consider Councilmember Koretz’s Motion this coming Tuesday. I urge you to give it your full support.

- The base floor area ratio for R-1 lots is excessive. Ratchet it down.
- Eliminate the pointless ‘green’ building bonus. Building sensibly sized homes does much more to shrink our carbon footprint than bamboo flooring and other so-called ‘green’ building practices, which are required by code anyway.
- Attached garages add 400 square feet of bloat and eliminate the driveways that provide an essential buffer between lots. Eliminate the exemption and count this square footage.
- Eliminate the other self-defeating design bonuses for items like double-height entryways and balconies, which add hundreds of square feet of uncounted bulk and still leave us with McMansions that loom over our neighbors’ homes.
- Make the project approval process transparent to the public.

Thoughtful development puts a premium on environmental and economic sustainability, neighborhood integrity, and a sense of community. These simple amendments could be prepared and adopted quickly, to protect neighborhoods being ravaged by unchecked, short-term real estate speculation and reckless development. They will allow renovations, expansions, and new construction that can accommodate modern family life while respecting the scale and character of established neighborhoods.

Every day brings more damage to more treasured L.A. neighborhoods, and we need your support desperately, and soon.

Sincerely,

Faircrest Heights Resident

Sharon Gin  
City of Los Angeles  
Office of the City Clerk
Dear Members of the Planning & Land Use Management Committee,

As you know, the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) has failed. Egregiously oversized houses continue to spoil the scale and character of single-family neighborhoods. Faircrest Heights (Council District 10) is one of them. Our change.org petition shows one of the McMansions that has blighted Faircrest Heights, and provides comments from neighbors who are gravely concerned about mansionization.

Neighborhoods all over the city – including ours – are clamoring for relief, requesting RFA overlays to
protect us from reckless development. Even with recently-announced staff increases, keeping up with that demand will be a challenge. Enforcing city code across a patchwork of overlays could be a real headache, too. Councilmember Koretz has offered a smart and sensible solution with his motion to amend the BMO. While his motion would not preclude ordinances tailored to specific neighborhoods, the amendments will almost certainly eliminate a big part of the problem – and fast.

As you know, PLUM will consider Councilmember Koretz’s Motion this coming Tuesday. I urge you to give it your full support.

- The base floor area ratio for R-1 lots is excessive. Ratchet it down.
- Eliminate the pointless ‘green’ building bonus. Building sensibly sized homes does much more to shrink our carbon footprint than bamboo flooring and other so-called ‘green’ building practices, which are required by code anyway.
- Attached garages add 400 square feet of bloat and eliminate the driveways that provide an essential buffer between lots. Eliminate the exemption and count this square footage.
- Eliminate the other self-defeating design bonuses for items like double-height entryways and balconies, which add hundreds of square feet of uncounted bulk and still leave us with McMansions that loom over our neighbors’ homes.
- Make the project approval process transparent to the public.

Thoughtful development puts a premium on environmental and economic sustainability, neighborhood integrity, and a sense of community. These simple amendments could be prepared and adopted quickly, to protect neighborhoods being ravaged by unchecked, short-term real estate speculation and reckless development. They will allow renovations, expansions, and new construction that can accommodate modern family life while respecting the scale and character of established neighborhoods.

Every day brings more damage to more treasured L.A. neighborhoods, and we need your support desperately, and soon.

Sincerely,

Andi Elmore

Faircrest Heights Resident
Add my name to the list of Los Angeles homeowners who support Councilmember Koretz’ motion to limit building size in residential areas. I have seen too many tree-lined streets of single-story cottages replaced with these lot line-to-lot line massive stucco boxes. They harm us all: They gobble power with constant air-conditioning, while removing the trees that provided natural cooling. They suck up water for their manicured lawns, while ripping out the roots that preserve the water table. This kind of building is the opposite of sustainable, no matter what label you put on the lumber. Any attempt to restrain it has my endorsement.

ethlie ann vare
8107 Amor Road
Los Angeles, CA 90046

Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org
When developers demolished a classic 1920's house on my street I was upset someone would want to ruin the historical character of my neighborhood. I was upset about the constant noise, the blocked street, the cloud of toxic dust, the trash blowing across my front lawn and the increase in neighborhood burglaries. As they continued building I became upset at the lengthening shadow across my garden, my daily view of the sunrise replaced by a stucco wall. Now I am upset that picture windows and balcony seats overlook what was a peaceful and private garden. My garden is dying from lack of sunlight. My roof had been collecting solar energy all day to offset my electric bill. The new stucco wall took that away. Gone are amenities I have enjoyed for many years and which a potential buyer would value. The character of my neighborhood and the quiet enjoyment of my home has been stolen by behavior identified by the city planning commission as a threat to our city. Mansionization continues to ruin neighborhoods like mine. A few get rich but residents and the city subsidize the profit through reduced property value, diminished quality of life and increased stress on local infrastructure like electrical, water and sewer connections. Larger houses use more resources, which will become more expensive and subject to more outages. My friends used to comment on how nice my neighborhood looked. Now they ask about the new apartment buildings.

I have found something positive. A theater-sized movie screen for backyard family movie night, as long as they close their curtains.

As the planning commission had predicted, greedy developers have already destroyed parts of the city with a disease called mansionization. It feeds on dysfunctional planning policy and a lack of enforcement for existing codes. Some neighborhoods have worked to develop an immunity. It is time for the planning commission to give us the vaccine and protect the rest of the city.

Steve Factor
Beverly Grove resident

Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Dear Members of the Planning & Land Use Management Committee,

As you know, the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) has failed. Egregiously oversized houses continue to spoil the scale and character of single-family neighborhoods. Faircrest Heights (Council District 10) is one of them. Our change.org petition shows one of the McMansions that has blighted Faircrest Heights, and provides comments from neighbors who are gravely concerned about mansionization.

Neighborhoods all over the city – including ours – are clamoring for relief, requesting RFA overlays to protect us from reckless development. Even with recently-announced staff increases, keeping up with that demand will be a challenge. Enforcing city code across a patchwork of overlays could be a real headache, too. Councilmember Koretz has offered a smart and sensible solution with his motion to amend the BMO. While his motion would not preclude ordinances tailored to specific neighborhoods, the amendments will almost certainly eliminate a big part of the problem – and fast.

As you know, PLUM will consider Councilmember Koretz’s Motion this coming Tuesday. I urge you to give it your full support.

The base floor area ratio for R-1 lots is excessive. Ratchet it down.
Eliminate the pointless ‘green’ building bonus. Building sensibly sized homes does much more to shrink our carbon footprint than bamboo flooring and other so-called ‘green’ building practices, which are required by code anyway.

Attached garages add 400 square feet of bloat and eliminate the driveways that provide an essential buffer between lots. Eliminate the exemption and count this square footage.

Eliminate the other self-defeating design bonuses for items like double-height entryways and balconies, which add hundreds of square feet of uncounted bulk and still leave us with McMansions that loom over our neighbors’ homes.

Make the project approval process transparent to the public.

Thoughtful development puts a premium on environmental and economic sustainability, neighborhood integrity, and a sense of community. These simple amendments could be prepared and adopted quickly, to protect neighborhoods being ravaged by unchecked, short-term real estate speculation and reckless development. They will allow renovations, expansions, and new construction that can accommodate modern family life while respecting the scale and character of established neighborhoods.

Every day brings more damage to more treasured L.A. neighborhoods, and we need your support desperately, and soon.

Sincerely,

- A. Doran Reed

Faircrest Heights Resident

Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org
As you know, the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) has failed. Egregiously oversized houses continue to spoil the scale and character of single-family neighborhoods. South Carthay (Council District 5) is one of them. A change.org petition shows one of the McMansions that has blighted Faircrest Heights, and provides comments from neighbors who are gravely concerned about mansionization.

Neighborhoods all over the city – including ours – are clamoring for relief, requesting RFA overlays to protect us from reckless development. Even with recently-announced staff increases, keeping up with that demand will be a challenge. Enforcing city code across a patchwork of overlays could be a real headache, too. Councilmember Koretz has offered a smart and sensible solution with his motion to amend the BMO. While his motion would not preclude ordinances tailored to specific neighborhoods, the amendments will almost certainly eliminate a big part of the problem – and fast.

As you know, PLUM will consider Councilmember Koretz’s Motion this coming Tuesday. I urge you to give it your full support.

- The base floor area ratio for R-1 lots is excessive. Ratchet it down.
- Eliminate the pointless ‘green’ building bonus. Building sensibly sized homes does much more to shrink our carbon footprint than bamboo flooring and other so-called ‘green’ building practices, which are required by code anyway.
- Attached garages add 400 square feet of bloat and eliminate the driveways that provide an essential buffer between lots. Eliminate the exemption and count this square footage.
- Eliminate the other self-defeating design bonuses for items like double-height entryways and
balconies, which add hundreds of square feet of uncounted bulk and still leave us with McMansions that loom over our neighbors’ homes.

- Make the project approval process transparent to the public.

Thoughtful development puts a premium on environmental and economic sustainability, neighborhood integrity, and a sense of community. These simple amendments could be prepared and adopted quickly, to protect neighborhoods being ravaged by unchecked, short-term real estate speculation and reckless development. They will allow renovations, expansions, and new construction that can accommodate modern family life while respecting the scale and character of established neighborhoods.

Every day brings more damage to more treasured L.A. neighborhoods, and we need your support desperately, and soon.

Sincerely,

Sal Messina

Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org
Dear Members of the Planning & Land Use Management Committee.

New homes should be visual harmonious within a community; the scale and design should match the already existing neighborhood. I feel great sadness when I walk around my neighborhood and see homes that are right up to the edge of property line and twice the height of everything around them. It is a selfish and ugly way to build a home. It gives no thought to the community or the architectural history in our neighborhood. Beverly Hills has learned from their mistakes of letting people destroy important architectural homes, and building over scaled poorly designed homes. Let us follow their lead and create stricture architectural standards for our communities. Please do this before it is too late.

As you know, the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) has failed. Egregiously oversized houses continue to spoil the scale and character of single-family neighborhoods. Faircrest Heights (Council District 10) is one of them. Our change.org petition shows one of the McMansions that has blighted Faircrest Heights, and provides comments from neighbors who are gravely concerned about mansionization.

Neighborhoods all over the city – including ours – are clamoring for relief, requesting RFA overlays to protect us from reckless development. Even with recently-announced staff increases, keeping
up with that demand will be a challenge. Enforcing city code across a
patchwork of overlays could be a real headache, too. Councilmember
Koretz has offered a smart and sensible solution with his motion to
amend the BMO. While his motion would not preclude ordinances
tailored to specific neighborhoods, the amendments will almost
certainly eliminate a big part of the problem – and fast.

As you know, PLUM will consider Councilmember Koretz's Motion
this coming Tuesday. I urge you to give it your full support.

- The base floor area ratio for R-1 lots is excessive. Ratchet it
down.

- Eliminate the pointless 'green' building bonus. Building
sensibly sized homes does much more to shrink our carbon
footprint than bamboo flooring and other so-called 'green'
building practices, which are required by code anyway.

- Attached garages add 400 square feet of bloat and eliminate
the driveways that provide an essential buffer between lots.
Eliminate the exemption and count this square footage.

- Eliminate the other self-defeating design bonuses for items
like double-height entryways and balconies, which add hundreds
of square feet of uncounted bulk and still leave us with
McMansions that loom over our neighbors’ homes.

- Make the project approval process transparent to the public.

Thoughtful development puts a premium on environmental and
economic sustainability, neighborhood integrity, and a sense of
community. These simple amendments could be prepared and adopted
quickly, to protect neighborhoods being ravaged by unchecked, short-
term real estate speculation and reckless development. They will allow
renovations, expansions, and new construction that can accommodate
modern family life while respecting the scale and character of
established neighborhoods.

Every day brings more damage to more treasured L.A. neighborhoods.
and we need your support desperately, and soon.

Sincerely,

Leone Avery
UCLA Extension
Interior Architect
and Interior Designer

--
Leone Avery
510-847-2228
leone.avery@gmail.com

--
Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org