



Sharon Dickinson <sharon.dickinson@lacity.org>

re : BMO/BHO Amendments, CF No. 14-0656

1 message

Sandra Willard <swillard@sbcglobal.net>

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 8:19 AM

Reply-To: Sandra Willard <swillard@sbcglobal.net>

To: "councilmember.wesson@lacity.org" <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, "vince.bertoni@lacity.org" <vince.bertoni@lacity.org>, "tom.rothmann@lacity.org" <tom.rothmann@lacity.org>, "ken.bernstein@lacity.org" <ken.bernstein@lacity.org>, "craig.weber@lacity.org" <craig.weber@lacity.org>, "nicholas.maricich@lacity.org" <nicholas.maricich@lacity.org>, "phyllis.nathanson@lacity.org" <phyllis.nathanson@lacity.org>, "niall.huffman@lacity.org" <niall.huffman@lacity.org>, "councilmember.huizar@lacity.org" <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.englander@lacity.org" <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>, "councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org" <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, "councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org" <councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org>, "sharon.dickinson@lacity.org" <sharon.dickinson@lacity.org>, "paul.koretz@lacity.org" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>

To my representatives:

I am writing to add my voice to those who are asking you to revise the current draft of the mansionization ordinance amendments to return to the provisions of the first draft. Attached garage square footage cannot be exempted from the overall square footage count, nor can attached porches and patios. Developers cannot be given bonuses to make these large houses even more gigantic. If these are included in the so-called amendments, what's the point of this process? Nothing is going to change.

What concerns me is the fact that the views of developers and realtors seem to be given equal weight to those of actual residents. What do developers and realtors contribute to a neighborhood? Do they drive an elderly neighbor to the grocery store when she needs supplies? Do they join the Neighborhood Council? Do they organize block parties so neighbors can get to know each other better? Do they keep an eye out to make sure neighbors' houses are safe?

No. They contribute nothing and keep affordable houses out of individuals who need them. Yet somehow their hysteria over a small reduction in their profit margin is cause for great concern.

Some homeowners rail about losing their 'rights'. But don't the adjoining property owners have rights, too? Don't I have a right to privacy? Apparently not, because a neighbor's home can go so high and so far back into the lot that every single one of my windows is visible. Fresh air and sunlight? Kiss that good-bye when the curtains are closed 24/7. Don't I have a right to get the best possible price for my house if I want to sell? Apparently not, because a small house boxed in by McMansions on either side only has value as a teardown. No more bidding war over my house's unique and beautifully maintained historical features. Oh, but at least my neighbor's 'rights' have been exercised.

Zoning laws exist to level the playing field. To create rules that benefit a neighborhood, not just a few privileged people. It's not as if this ordinance will prevent rebuilding or remodeling. It just keeps the construction within reasonable guidelines. Those in favor of the amended BMO/BHO are not decrying ALL construction. Just that which is out of scale. That is compromise. Those who want a continuation of the all-but-useless current ordinance refuse to compromise at all. That says quite a lot.

Again, I ask you to please give these amendments some teeth, so they can put a stop to this out-of-control mansionization. Otherwise, one of the most unique features of Los Angeles, its varied and beautiful neighborhoods, are going to go the way of the Red Car. A For Sale sign going up on one's block should not be a reason for dread and anxiety.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sandra Willard
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