

14-11624

Motion

Throughout the City, non-profits, homeowner associations, neighborhood councils, local schools and other community groups undertake community improvement projects and make significant investments in their local neighborhoods. These community groups are important partners in the City's ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance neighborhood quality of life.

Community participation in the planning and implementation of neighborhood improvement projects should be fostered and encouraged, and not hampered by City policies and processes that create inordinate burdens on such efforts. However, depending on the location, and scope of the project, the process, permit and fee structure can vary and are sometimes inconsistent. And sometimes, depending on the complexity of the project, community beautification efforts are discouraged or hindered solely based upon the "red tape" that exists within the City.

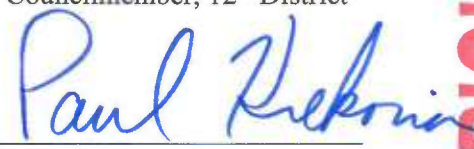
For example, when Council District 12 partnered with Northridge South Neighborhood Council, Napa Elementary School, local neighbors and businesses to clean up an unimproved parcel of land, which was a magnet for illegal dumping and an area of blight (photos attached), navigating the different jurisdictions, departments, points of contact, and applications was a feat that required significant effort and time.

Additionally, neighborhood council funding is limited to the fiscal year, and the red tape associated with community projects often makes it difficult to properly budget or encumber funds within the given timeframe.

City departments, bureaus and agencies need to be responsive and willing to assist community groups seeking to improve their neighborhoods and City staff should serve as a meaningful resource to resolve problems and find solutions. City policy, rules, regulations and processes should enhance and foster these community improvement activities, and not become a barrier.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Public Works, with the assistance and cooperation of the Department of Transportation, City Planning, City Attorney, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst, be instructed to prepare and present a report setting forth ways and means by which the City of Los Angeles may best serve community organizations seeking to undertake community improvement projects. The report should include but not be limited to a discussion of the following key elements: establishing a single point of contact for inquires and technical assistance, identifying efficiencies and streamlining of all existing processes and permits, resolution of liability responsibilities which can hinder volunteer efforts, and outreach strategy for stakeholder input.

PRESENTED BY: 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY: 


NOV 26 2014

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BEFORE



AFTER



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