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CITY PLANNING

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April 21, 2016

Honorable Members of the City Council
Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Richard Williams, Legislative Assistant

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING 2016-17 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Department of City Planning is extremely pleased with the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17 as it continues to provide the necessary resources to deliver significant land use policies and development services in the City. The Proposed Budget includes a Comprehensive Community Plan Program with 28 newly authorized positions which will allow the Department to update all community plans over a ten year period. We are also appreciative of the resources provided that expand our Major Projects Section, Case Management, and Development Services Centers to help us achieve timely reviews and optimal customer service.

There are two requests that we would like the Committee to consider as follows:

- **Neighborhood Conservation** - The 2016-17 proposed budget discontinues two positions for Neighborhood Conservation, which were specifically allocated to enable the creation of six new Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs), or historic districts, in significant historic neighborhoods for which the Council adopted an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) last year. These two positions are filled and assigned to the creation of six HPOZs for Holmby-Westwood, Carthay Square, Oxford Square, El Sereno Berkshire Craftsman District, Sunset Square, and Miracle Mile. If the positions are not restored, the Department will need to suspend work on these proposed historic districts.

- **Great Streets/Mobility Team City Planner** - Our request to continue three resolution positions for the Great Streets program was not included and all positions are currently filled. While we understand there are limitations with Measure R funding and supportive of some of the proposed reductions, we are requesting that the City Planner position be continued given the breadth and depth of the Mobility Team's workload.

One other area we would like raise is the actual authority term for resolution positions that are partially funded. The Department received several new resolution authority positions with nine or six months funding. Due to the complexity of hiring new positions, we would like to ensure that the authority for these positions is granted for a full twelve month period. Securing the full year authority will allow us to initiate hiring processes earlier and successfully fill the positions for the funding period provided.

We look forward to discussing these important issues with the Committee. If you have any questions, please contact me at 978-1271.

Sincerely,



Vincent P. Bertoni, AICP
Director of Planning

cc: Jose Huizar, Chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Kelli Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development
Matt Szabo, Deputy Mayor for Budget and Innovation
Miguel Santana, City Administrative Officer