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CITY PLANNING

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April 21, 2017

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

Attention: Richard Williams, Legislative Assistant

**DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING 2017-18 PROPOSED BUDGET**

The Department of City Planning is very appreciative of the support provided by the Mayor and his Budget Team in the FY 2017-18 Proposed Budget. The Proposed Budget includes many of the vital resources needed for the Department of City Planning to begin the City's ambitious 6-year cycle updating the Community Plans, as well as the necessary staffing resources for our development services functions.

We respectfully request that the Budget and Finance Committee consider the following resources that were not included in the proposed budget:

**Expanded HPOZ Program Staff**

The City's Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) program is experiencing unprecedented backlogs due to a sharp increase in case requests and public inquiries in recent months generated largely by the strong economy. As a result of this heightened level of activity, applicants are in a lengthy queue for approval that can last up to several months due to insufficient staffing to process the requests. Additionally, recent City Council actions have increased the size of the HPOZ program by 20% within just the past few months, from 30 HPOZ districts in November 2016 to 35 today, with one additional new HPOZ pending final Council approval in the coming weeks.

The Department continues to promote revisions to HPOZ procedures to maximize efficiencies, but demand for the program continues to grow. With the existing staffing levels already insufficient to address the HPOZ caseload, the current case processing backlogs will significantly worsen as these five new HPOZ districts take effect this

spring. The additional team of one (1) City Planner and three (3) City Planning Associates is greatly needed to ensure an appropriate span of supervision and staffing to handle the existing backlog and timely processing of new case requests, affecting more than 21,000 properties citywide.

We look forward to discussing these important items with the Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Director Jan Zatorski at (213) 978-1271.

Sincerely



VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP  
Director of Planning

- c: Jose Huizar, Chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee
- Raymond Chan, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development
- Matt Szabo, Deputy Mayor for Budget and Innovation
- Richard Llewellyn, Interim City Administrative Officer