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CITY PLANNING**

COMMISSION OFFICE
(213) 978-1300

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200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4801
(213) 978-1271

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April 23, 2019

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: Andrew Choi, Legislative Assistant

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING 2019-20 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Department of City Planning appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Mayor's 2019-20 Proposed Budget. We support this budget, which allows us to continue developing policy around important issues such as housing and mobility, to develop and implement environmental policy to address climate change, and to continue providing high-quality development services. The Department thanks the Mayor and his budget team for the new or increased resources that will enable the Department to deliver the following:

- General Plan Update, and environmental and economic studies for the Housing Element;
- Development of the Civic Center Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR);
- Solidified investments in technological infrastructure and web development; and
- Timely reviews of EIRs for citywide projects.

Understanding the City's fiscal challenges, the Department would like to make the following observations.

Accelerated Community Plan Update Schedule

In the current year, the Department has fully deployed all budgeted resources across the five initial geographic plan areas to conduct outreach for the Community Plan Program and update all 35 plans within six years. The Proposed Budget provides funding from the Planning Long Range Planning Special Fund (PLRP) to conduct environmental review (\$1 million) and to continue the additional teams that began in the current fiscal year to achieve the accelerated schedule. However, to remain on track, an additional \$1.5 million in General Fund support is needed to avoid delaying the FY 2019-20 launch of the EIRs for the Southeast Valley, Westside, and Harbor Community Plans. The PLRP cash balance is being drawn down at a rate that exceeds original estimates due to the Department being required to absorb additional related costs. Therefore, the Department continues to require the \$1.5 million in General Fund support as has been anticipated to meet the Mayor and Council's six-year schedule.

Home-Sharing Administration & Extended Home-Sharing

The Proposed Budget provides the baseline needs for Home-Sharing administration and enforcement including staffing and funding for an online registration and compliance monitoring system. However, the Proposed Budget does not include any additional staff positions for

Extended Home-Sharing, which includes an entitlement process that could significantly increase the Department's work program.

Council approved an Extended Home-Sharing entitlement process that would allow hosts to exceed 120 days of home-sharing within a calendar year. The Department anticipates that the staff needed to perform the Administrative Review and more extensive Discretionary Review associated with this program will become more evident by the end of this calendar year. However, the Department is requesting one (1) Senior Accountant II position to administer the Short Term Rental Trust Fund, as this position is critical in the fiscal management of the fund both for the existing baseline operation as well as for any upcoming Extended Home-Sharing activities. The Department anticipates that fees will cover the cost for this position in the long term. Additionally, the Department is requesting a minimum level of staffing for the Extended Home-Sharing review process, which would include one (1) Principal City Planner, one (1) City Planner, and three (3) City Planning Associates to supplement the baseline team. The Proposed Budget identified \$250,000 in the Unappropriated Balance that can help offset the cost of six months funding for these positions, which will ultimately be fee supported in future years.

Los Angeles World Airports

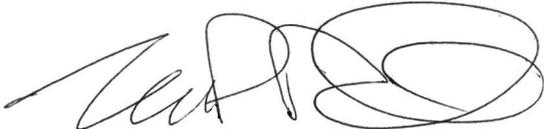
Earlier this year, the Department executed an MOU with Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to provide technical assistance and project review, as well as process amendments and entitlement approvals for LAX and Van Nuys Airports. During the budget process, information was pending that led to the deletion of two (2) resolution authorities. The Department is working with LAWA to confirm support for one Senior City Planner, which is currently a filled position. Therefore, the Department respectfully requests that this position be restored.

Additional Comments

The Department appreciates the opportunity to move forward the many important initiatives supported in the Proposed Budget. Recognizing the City's fiscal constraints, the Department would nevertheless like to point out a few notable programs that are not proposed for funding. Namely, the budget does not include resources for staff dedicated to the maintenance and update of Specific Plans throughout the City or for increased staff within the Mulholland Specific Plan area. The Department will continue to work diligently on these issues with the resources we have been provided.

We look forward to discussing these items with the Committee and implementing the 2019-20 Proposed Budget. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Keane, Deputy Director of Planning, at (213) 978-1273.

Sincerely,



VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
Director of Planning

- c: Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee
- Matt Szabo, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor
- William Chun, Deputy Mayor of Economic Development
- Miguel Sangalang, Deputy Mayor of Budget and Innovation
- Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
- Richard Llewellyn, City Administrative Officer