

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(10) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 12/14/2020

Type of NC Board Action: Against

#### Impact Information

Date: 01/20/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1044

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: WCKNC strongly opposes CF: 20-1044. We believe the special treatment of “high value projects” is completely inappropriate and is likely to have the unintended consequences of increasing preference towards these developers increasing the likelihood of corruption. Additionally, reducing public input on the future of our city is against the very spirit of our democracy. In the interest of transparency in government, the WCKNC asks that the proposed motion be revised so there is true independent review of future land use and development.



WILSHIRE CENTER  
KOREATOWN  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



December 14, 2020

Councilmember Nury Martinez

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

Councilmember Currand D. Price

Councilmember John S. Lee

Councilmember Herb Wesson

Los Angeles City Council Planning and Land Use Management  
and Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations  
Committees  
200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, California  
90012

**Re: Community Impact Statement for Council File: 20-1044 Land Use Reform / High Value Projects**

Dear Honorable members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee and Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee,

We, the Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Council (WCKNC), strongly **oppose CF 20-1044 Land Use Reform / High Value Projects**. As written, this motion would significantly restrict of public engagement in the planning process, give unfair advantages to large, corporate developers, and is likely to increase corruption within the City Council.

WCKNC strongly opposes any action that strips communities and constituents of their ability to engage in public hearings. By bypassing the Planning Land Use and Management (PLUM) committee, stakeholders will have a reduced opportunity for comment and the ability to influence council decisions. Any restrictions of public hearings including the foregoing of committee hearings for "high value projects" reduces public participation and goes against the democratic spirit of the Brown Act. As it is community members are often not informed of these projects until one or two weeks before the City Council PLUM meeting and are given little to no time to mount an opposition, an further reduction in the time that community members have to prepare to voice their support or opposition is wholly unacceptable.

Allowing "high value projects" to bypass the PLUM committee would provide preferential treatment to large business developers and put smaller development companies, non-profit

organizations, and public land trusts at a significant disadvantage. As a neighborhood where we hear numerous “high value projects” many of which are funded by developers who have demonstrated a complete disregard for the good of the community and the voice of its residents. In the past efforts to communicate with such developers have been met with disrespect and disregard and at times threats of violence and other abusive behaviors. These developers should not be given any further advantage and should not be treated differently because they have profited most from the current affordable housing crisis.

WCKNC is deeply concerned about corruption in the City Council with respect to planning and land use. Many of these corporate developers and investment companies are significant contributors to the election campaigns of city council members and the mayor. We do not think that moving “high value” projects out of the PLUM committee and to the full City Council board is a solution for the corruption issues recently brought to light. City Councilmembers tend to defer to the Councilmember in whose district the project resides. Having the City Council vote on the project does not close the door to corruption, rather it opens the door to a greater number of Councilmembers.

In summary, WCKNC strongly **opposes CF: 20-1044**. We believe the special treatment of “high value projects” is completely inappropriate and is likely to have the unintended consequences of increasing preference towards these developers increasing the likelihood of corruption. Additionally, reducing public input on the future of our city is against the very spirit of our democracy. In the interest of transparency in government, the WCKNC asks that the proposed motion be revised so there is true independent review of future land use and development.

Sincerely,

The Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Council

PNB 400

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CC: Councilmember Elect Mark Ridley Thomas

Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell

Councilmember Gil Cedillo

Councilmember David Ryu

Councilmember Elect Nithya Raman

