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Motion to split the Economic Development Committee into three separate committees

Agenda Item: GB021816-4

Date: February 18, 2016

Proposed By: Jon Liberman

Full Proposal

The Economic Development Committee has been in effect for several years. Currently they are enjoying great progress with the Robertson Blvd. corridor. However, the focus has not been able to be expanded to other business corridors at the present time. I propose that the Board split this committee into three separate committees. This would be done on a geographical basis.

1. Robertson Blvd. Corridor Economic Development Committee which would be Co-Chaired by Marj Safinia and Beth Hirsch. This would maintain continuity with this area.
2. Pico Blvd. Corridor Economic Development Committee which would be Co-Chaired by Michael Bloom and Jon Liberman.
3. West La Cienega Blvd. Corridor Economic Development Committee which would be Co-chaired by Mike Lynn and Terrance Gomes.

The net effect of this would allow these three diverse areas of Soro to work towards economic development without having to wait for one area to be completed prior to dealing with the needs of the other two areas. All three committees have strong leadership. Each proposed Co-Chair has been contacted and has indicated a willingness to serve in a leadership role. The proposed leadership all have ties to the specific areas covered by the proposed committees.

Proposed Motion

Effective upon the passage of this motion the current Economic Development Committee would be split into three separate committees:

1. Robertson Blvd. Corridor Economic Development Committee which would be Co-Chaired by Marj Safinia and Beth Hirsch.
2. Pico Blvd. Corridor Economic Development Committee which would be Co-chaired by Michael Bloom and Jon Liberman.
3. West La Cienega Blvd. Corridor Economic Development Committee which would be Co-chaired by Mike Lynn and Terrance Gomes.



Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: n/a

Against: n/a

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

1. Allows focus on development of contiguous areas.
2. Allows work on development to occur faster since each committee has a narrow focus.
3. May bring additional Board Members onto these committees since one of these committees may align with an individual board members' interests.

Arguments against:

1. Creates additional committees which may cause overlapping scheduling of meetings.



SORONC 60 Day Notice to City Attorney Feuer for enforcement of Short Term Rentals

Agenda Item: GB021618-12
Date: February 18, 2016
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Background

ALL Short-Term Rentals ("Airbnb" is the commonly known terminology) are illegal in Residential Zones in the City of Los Angeles. L.A.M.C section 12.21(A) (1) (a). A short-term rental is a rental that lasts fewer than 30 days. It is illegal to "AirBnB"(short-term rent) any portion of an apartment or house, regardless of whether you are a tenant or a landlord. This would include areas like Silver Lake and Venice, which are mostly zoned low-density residential

If you are operator in a residential zone, it is irrelevant whether you have a written agreement with the landlord permitting AirBnB. The agreement is considered illegal and unenforceable and the landlord can still evict you if he so chooses, at any time. You can also be prosecuted regardless of landlord permission. It is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 6 months imprisonment. LAMC Section 11(m).

If you are a rent-controlled tenant in a residential zone, Airbnb-ing your apartment is grounds for eviction, because rent-controlled tenants are not permitted to use their apartments for an "illegal purpose" L.A.M.C 151.09(A) (4)

Proposed Motion

Whereas, it is now clear that short term rentals are illegal in Los Angeles' residential neighborhoods, and Whereas the City Attorney has consistently refused to prosecute short-term rental violations in the City of Los Angeles, for a variety of reasons, Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council urges City Attorney Mike Feuer to enforce the law as required by the Charter, and immediately prosecute short-term rental zoning violations in the City of Los Angeles.

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council demands that if after 60 days of this notice, Mr. Feuer does not start enforcement, City Council take action to hire a private law firm to start enforcement procedures and reallocate the City Attorney's budget to pay for those services.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 0

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Arguments against:

First argument in favor. Use these points to help frame the debate.

First argument against the motion. Try to be fair.

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SORONC support for a manageable Street Vending Ordinance

Agenda Item: GB021816-13

Date: February 18, 2016

Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Background

Council File: [13-1493](#) relative to Street Vending was heard in the Economic Development Committee on October 27, 2015 and is now pending in the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee. The City of Los Angeles is asking for a more comprehensive legal framework to effectively address sidewalk vending. The matter is now pending in the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee and will likely be heard in Committee in February, but a date is not confirmed. If Public Works Committee's actions are different than Economic Development – a motion would have to be made in Council as to which report to adopt. The Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee has not set a date to hear the matter.

Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the CF: 13-1493 with the following conditions:

- That all communities MUST opt-in to have street vending participate in their area. Opt-in public meetings shall be held at the Neighborhood Council for the boundaries of their Neighborhood Council. Once it is determined that the Neighborhood Council area will opt-in, the Department of Street Services will determine the site locations and hold public meetings in the affected communities.
- There shall be a maximum of two street vendors per block with no merchandise displayed on public sidewalks, driveways, poles, fences, curbs or any other public right-of-way. These vendors will be selected by a lottery for the designated locations in the opt-in Neighborhood Council locations.
- All authorized vendors must file an application for a revocable placard, pay a predetermined cost recovery application fee, obtain a Food Handling Certification, BTRC, FTB Resale License, Los Angeles County Health permit, and comply with any and all required local, state, and federal regulations. The authorized vendor will be required to pay an annual predetermined cost recovery fee that includes an annual cart inspection and complaint review.

If the City Council is unable to include these minimum conditions as part of the comprehensive legal framework, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council will withdraw its support and demand that the City Council immediately instruct the Department of Street Services to implement an ACE citation program to enforce the current municipal law of the City of Los Angeles.

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13-1493

NOV 06 2013

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTIO

Related CF's: 13-0980
08-0011-83

MOTION

Street vending on the City right-of-way and sidewalk is illegal. In the average year, there are hundreds of tickets written to vendors, and several hundred arrests. Yet thousands of vendors continue to operate in an underground marketplace, selling a wide variety of food and merchandise on the sidewalks of Los Angeles.

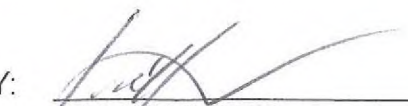
Street vending largely falls within two categories, food street vending and merchandise (non-food) street vending, each with their own complexities. Street vending is permitted in various forms by most other large cities. New York, San Francisco, Houston, Portland and Chicago are among the cities that have established a regulatory system for selling merchandise and/or food on city sidewalks.

In Los Angeles, a more comprehensive legal framework is required to effectively address sidewalk vending. An effective regulatory system has the potential to protect health and increase public safety and economic activity. Such a policy should also consider the rights and investments of brick-and-mortar businesses, including opportunities to expand and promote their businesses through street vending and with the overall goal of enhancing economic growth and the viability of neighborhoods.

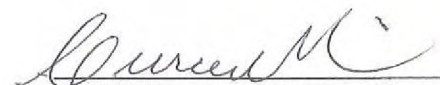
I THEREFORE MOVE, that the CLA, along with Bureau of Street Services and in consultation with other Departments as needed, the City Attorney and the County of Los Angeles, be instructed to prepare and present a report within 90 days with recommendations on possible regulation that could effectively permit and regulate *food street vending* on City sidewalks and parkways. This report should include the following: the history and status of the Special Sidewalk Vending District program administered by the former Community Development Department; a review of policies in other jurisdictions; recommendations to improve public safety; and ways to ensure street food vendors provide safe and healthy food options.

I FURTHER MOVE, that the CLA, along with Economic and Workforce Development Department, City Attorney and Bureau of Street Services, and in consultation with other Departments as needed, be instructed to prepare and present a report within 90 days with recommendations on possible regulation of *merchandise and non-food street vending* in the City of Los Angeles. This report should include the following: information on the number of citations that have been issued over the past year and where the citations were issued; the current regulations on street vending and how the regulations are enforced; potential legal constraints for regulating street vending; and a review of policies in other jurisdictions.

PRESENTED BY:

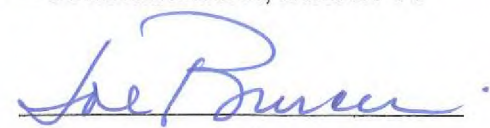


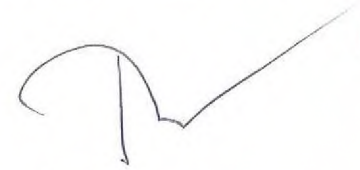
JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, District 14



CURREN D. PRICE, JR.
Councilmember, District 9

SECONDED BY:





ORIGINAL

NOV 6 2013



Motion to reassert alcohol-specific conditions in Conditional Use Beverage (CUB) permits

Agenda Item: GB031716-6
Date: 17 March 2016
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons / WRAC

Background

From the background materials provided by Venice NC:

In 2012, the City of Los Angeles implemented a new practice prohibiting Zoning Administrators from imposing “alcohol-specific” conditions requested by LAPD, Council Offices, neighborhood councils and community councils at Conditional Use Beverage Permit (CUB) hearings.

In a letter dated January 9, 2014, in response to a request from the Venice Neighborhood Council for clarification about what kinds of conditions can be legally included on a CUB, the City Attorney stated “...The City, unlike the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (“ABC”), is prohibited (“preempted”) by State law from imposing these types of conditions on a CUB.”

The letter references two documents: a 1996 memo from then-Chief Zoning Administrator Robert Janovici to all Zoning Administrators containing examples of prohibited alcohol-related conditions, and a 1990 Superior Court writ invalidating alcohol-specific conditions imposed on a Pacoima food market.

Both documents are cited as evidence that the City is preempted by state law from imposing conditions related to the sale of alcohol.

For reasons detailed below, and in the resolution, both of these documents are outdated and do not reflect the current state of the law or the practice of virtually every other municipality in the State of California.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The City’s relatively new position denies city agencies – including the LAPD, Zoning Administration, Council Offices, and Neighborhood Councils – the ability to prevent and abate public nuisances associated with the sale of alcohol by restricting the placement of conditions on, among other examples, hours of sale of alcohol, happy hours (rules and regulations), container sizes, and types of alcohol sold.

For decades, the City of Los Angeles allowed conditions to be placed on the sale of alcohol using its broad police powers under its land use and planning authority. The ability to place and then enforce such conditions has been crucial for mitigating adverse impacts of businesses selling and/or service alcohol.

Untold numbers of issues and concerns between community members and those businesses seeking CUBs have been amicably resolved through this process.

Unlike most retail products, alcohol has a direct and significant impact on public health, welfare and safety. Without the ability to place alcohol-related conditions, communities can no longer exert local control over the impacts of new alcohol-related businesses in their neighborhoods.

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WHY THE CHANGE IN PRACTICE?

A policy change of this magnitude requires a vote from the City Council, and there has been no such vote. There is no clear understanding among the multiple affected parties (NCs, ZAs, community members) why the City is mandating such a strict departure from its decades-long practice.

Attempts to clarify the legal justification and rationale behind such a significant change in practice have been unsuccessful. Regardless, without a public process and a vote from the City Council mandating such a substantial change in long-standing City practice, various City agencies must be able to continue to place alcohol-specific conditions under the City's land use and planning authority.

NUMEROUS CALIFORNIA CITIES AND COUNTIES CONDITION THE SALE OF ALCOHOL

Unlike the City of Los Angeles, cities and counties throughout California allow alcohol-specific conditions to be placed on CUB permits for new businesses that sell or serve alcohol.

Ample California case law exists that calls into question the City's current practice. An examination of legal precedent indicates the City's position:

- overstates the breadth of the State's alcohol licensing authority;
- disregards recent case law; and
- ignores the practices of numerous other California jurisdictions.

In fact, to the best of our knowledge, the City of Los Angeles is the only jurisdiction in the State of California that takes the position that the City is powerless to regulate the impacts of alcohol with alcohol-specific conditions.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO BUSINESSES, TOO

Alcohol-specific conditions constitute a "path to yes" for restaurants, markets and liquor stores, allowing a process whereby applicants and communities can find mutually agreeable land use conditions which, once reached, allow business owners to enjoy the benefits of their CUB in their community.

Without the ability of Zoning Administrators to impose alcohol-related conditions to mitigate land use impacts, communities are forced to oppose projects they otherwise could support with proper conditions.

This impairs the ability of LAPD, Council Offices, and communities to negotiate with businesses to reach agreement on conditions that allow a project to move forward, which obstructs new business development.

Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council calls upon the City Council to adopt a policy to:

- I. Authorize the imposition of land use conditions that protect public health, safety and welfare by mitigating potential adverse impacts from the sale or service of alcohol, consistent with the practice of other jurisdictions statewide as well as the City's decades-long practice prior to 2012;
- II. Maintain and enforce previously-imposed CUB conditions on the sale or service of alcohol; and
- III. Prohibit the removal of previously-imposed conditions outside the public processes mandated under the City Charter and Zoning Code.



Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 0

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Arguments against:

The City of Los Angeles had imposed land use conditions in CUB permits for decades before the Dept. of City Planning suddenly reversed this practice in 2012, on the advice of the City Attorney's Office, with no public notice, no public process, no public hearings, and no direction from the City Council

The Dept. of City Planning is obligated to follow City Attorney advice.

The City's current practice undermines the ability of the City and local communities to protect against potential land use impacts that are adverse to public health, safety and welfare. California courts have repeatedly affirmed that municipalities have broad police powers to impose conditions on the sale or service of alcohol.

The City Attorney references two prior documents that suggest that the City is prohibited from imposing conditions.



Motion to support Mercy Housing California Senior Housing Project at 8868 Pico Blvd.

Agenda Item: GB042116-4
Date: 21 April 2016
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Background

Mercy Housing, a national nonprofit organization, is working to build a more humane world where poverty is alleviated, communities are healthy and all people can develop their full potential. Mercy Housing has participated in the development, preservation and/or financing of more than 45,000 affordable homes. •Mercy Housing California (MHC) is the largest division of Mercy Housing, Inc.,

- Offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento
- Mercy Housing California creates homes for...
- Working families with children of limited means, where the parents are nursing assistants, teachers' aides, security guards, and others who make up any thriving community.
- Seniors with limited incomes who want to age with dignity in their own homes.
- Individuals with special needs, including homeless veterans, former foster children and people living with HIV/AIDS, developmental disabilities, mental health concerns ,or other challenges.
- MHC has developed and manages over 9,000 affordable units in 144 developments statewide

Mercy Housing has been awarded a contract to develop a senior housing complex at 8862 Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90035. The building will be designed in modern architecture.

Units

- 44 one bedrooms –all affordable
- 3 studios –all affordable
- 1 two-bedroom Mgmt. unit
- All senior housing, 62 plus, 12 units reserved for Senior Veterans who are formerly homeless

Parking

- 47 Public Parking Spaces (current is 39 according to our count)
- Public parking will be owned and operated by LADOT, site ownership stays with city, development is done with ground lease from city
- Separate Residential Parking

Amenities

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- Interior Courtyard
- Community Room with Kitchen
- Fitness Room (may be open to non-residents through JFS programs)
- On-site laundry on each floor
- Mgmt. office
- Resident services offices
- Green/Energy Efficient/Sustainable design and construction
- On-site resident services provided by Jewish Family Services and New Directions for Veterans.

The Land Use and Economic Development (LUED) Committee was very concerned about the project as to public parking. Currently the proposed site is a surface lot with 39 spaces. With the advent of development and increased business activity the area is in desperate need of additional parking. Since this project will be with the community for a minimum of fifty years, it would be prudent the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council advocate for the inclusion of additional parking for public use. LUED has met with Councilmember Koretz and the community to find alternative funding steams to design and build additional parking for the business district. LUED has also proposed to the Councilmember that the new revenue stream from the additional parking spaces be used to fund additional parking opportunities in the community.

Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council moves to support the Mercy Housing California entitlement application that allows for the creation of an additional 30 public parking spaces provided that a non-housing funding source can be identified by a SORO LUED subcommittee, or Councilmember Koretz (Supplemental Parking Committee, SPC), to cover the cost of the additional parking. For purposes of securing the funding, the cost of adding an additional level of parking is estimated by MHC's construction manager at \$1.5 million. The SPC will commit to identifying funding by the earliest estimated City Planning Commission (CPC) hearing date, October 1, 2016. SPC and MHC will meet monthly to update the status of the entitlement application and supplemental funding request. If supplemental funding is not identified prior to the CPC hearing date, the project would move forward to a CPC hearing with its current design of 47 public parking spaces without the support of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 5

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Arguments against:

Great opportunity for community outreach.

MOTION

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (DWP) governance structure must be reformed.

In its 1999 study of governance options, RAND Corporation called the utility's existing system "overly complex, cumbersome, and bureaucratic."

A decade later, PA Consulting found that DWP's governance framework "does not facilitate efficient decision-making and clouds accountability for key decisions."

The Los Angeles 2020 Commission recommended in 2014 that the City establish a full-time, paid independent rate commission of experts to "take the politics out of DWP."

Most recently, the 2015 Industrial, Economic and Administrative Survey noted that unless DWP becomes more transparent "it will be difficult for LADWP to earn back the public trust and carry out its agenda" and recommended that the City consider alternative governance structures for the utility.

It is time for the City of Los Angeles to address these concerns.




The City should develop and adopt Charter amendments to restructure DWP's governance system in order to increase oversight and transparency, reduce political interference from City Hall, and streamline departmental operations. Any Charter amendment would have to be approved by the voters of Los Angeles.

Currently, major sections of the City Charter and Administrative Code addressing DWP governance issues can be found in:

- City Charter § 245 (City Council Veto of Board Actions)
- City Charter § 271 (City Attorney Power and Duties)
- City Charter § 500 *et seq.* (General Provisions Related to Departments)
- City Charter § 600 *et seq.* (General Provisions for Proprietary Departments)
- City Charter § 670 *et seq.* (Department of Water and Power)
- City Charter § 1000 *et seq.* (Civil Service)
- Administrative Code § 23.122 *et seq.* (Department of Water and Power)

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council instruct the City Attorney, in consultation with the City Administrative Officer, to address the relevant Charter and Administrative Code provisions for the proposed amendments as outlined in the attached document, and prepare additional language for necessary amendments to the Charter and Administrative Code for inclusion in a 2016 ballot measure to be put before the voters of the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY: 
 FELIPE FUENTES
 Councilmember, Seventh District

SECONDED BY: 



JAN 22 2016

ORIGINAL

Proposed Charter Amendments for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

BOARD: The part-time, voluntary nature of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners (Board) limits oversight of utility operations.

Proposed amendments:

- Replace voluntary board with five to seven full-time, professional Board members.
 - Amend City Charter § 670 to change number of Board members.
 - Amend City Charter § 502 to exempt or remove rules governing appointment and removal of DWP Board; consolidate and add to City Charter § 670 *et seq.*
 - Amend City Charter § 501 to exempt DWP Board and add a new “attendance fees” provision to Section 670 *et seq.*
- Require Board members to have expertise in areas such as public utility management, environmental policy, consumer advocacy, or finance.
 - Amend City Charter § 501 to exempt DWP Board and add new qualifying provisions to Section 670 *et seq.*; replicate in Section 670 *et seq.* the provisions in Section 501(d) and (e) requiring Board member to be a registered voter of the City and not be a lobbyist.
- Require Board members to serve full five-year terms.
 - Amend City Charter § 501(c) to exempt DWP Board and add new term requirements to Section 670 *et seq.*
- Establish staggered terms.
 - Amend City Charter § 501(c) to exempt DWP Board and add new language to Section 670 *et seq.* requiring staggered terms.
- Establish term limits for Board members.
 - Amend Section 670 *et seq.* to add term limits provision.
- Determine process for appointing or electing Board member positions.
 - Amend Section 501 to exempt DWP Board and add new appointment or selection process to Section 670 *et seq.*

CITY HALL: DWP must report to multiple City entities, resulting in decentralized authority and inefficiency; Board actions – including ratemaking – would no longer require City Council approval unless the City Council asserts jurisdiction.

Proposed amendments:

- Remove requirements for City Council approval or oversight of certain Board actions.
 - Amend City Charter § 506 to exempt Board and General Manager (GM) from Mayor and Council approval of rules and regulations, decisions for acquisition of real property, and approval of contracts.
 - Amend City Charter § 604 to remove Mayor and Council confirmation of GM appointment and Mayor confirmation of GM removal.
 - Amend City Charter § 604 to exempt GM compensation (set by Board) from Council interference.
 - Amend City Charter § 605, 606, 607 to exempt Board from Council interference in granting franchises, concessions, permits, licenses, and leases.
 - Amend City Charter §§ 674, 675 to exempt Board from Council approval requirement for power contracts and actions regarding real estate.
 - Amend City Charter § 609 to remove Council and Mayor oversight of debt issuance.
 - Amend City Charter § 677 to exempt sale or exchange of surplus water from Council oversight.
 - Amend powers and duties contained in Administrative Code § 21.133 *et seq.* to remove Council interference.
 - Amend City Charter § 676 to add a ‘passage unless Council intervenes’ provision similar to City Charter § 245(a).

OVERSIGHT: Board has limited access to independent analysis of Department proposals.

Proposed amendments:

- Authorize Board to hire its own legal counsel.
 - Amend City Charter § 271 (provides that City Attorney shall be the legal advisor to all City board, departments, officers and entities) to allow Board to appoint its own legal advisor; add an authorization provision to City Charter § 670 *et seq.*, possibly City Charter § 675 (Power and Duties of the Board) allowing Board appointment/hire of its own legal advisor.
- Authorize Board to hire its own budget/policy advisors to serve a City Administrative Officer/Chief Legislative Analyst-like function.
 - Add an authorization provision to City Charter § 670 *et seq.*, possibly City Charter § 675 (Powers and Duties of the Board) allowing Board appointment/hire of its own legal budget/policy advisors.

PERSONNEL: The Department is unable to hire quickly and fill key positions with qualified personnel.

Proposed amendments:

- Authorize the Department to oversee its own hiring functions and remove the Department from its obligation to follow civil service rules.

- Add an authorization provision to City Charter § 670 *et seq.*, possibly City Charter § 675 (Powers and Duties of the Board) allowing Board discretion to hire and discharge personnel.
- Amend Charter provisions regarding exempt positions from City civil service requirements in City Charter § 1001, including City Charter § 1001(c) (Proprietary Department Positions).
- Exempt appointment of Secretary of the Board and Chief Accounting Employee from compliance with City ordinance and civil service (exempt from/amend City Charter § 504).

TRANSFER: The Department's annual transfer to the City General Fund continues to increase.

Proposed amendment:

- Cap City transfer at its pre-Prop 26 level.
 - Amend transfer provisions in City Charter § 340 *et seq.*



LADWP Governance and Professional Board of Commissioners Formation

Agenda Item: GB042116-5
Date: 21 April 2016
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Background

On Friday, January 22, Council Member Felipe Fuentes introduced a “motion calling for a 2016 ballot measure to reform and restructure the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.” The motion was seconded by Herb Wesson and Mitch O’Farrell.

Fuentes proposed creation of a fulltime, professional Board of Commissioners, the removal of requirements for City Council approval and oversight of certain Board actions, and the authority of the Board to retain its own legal counsel and budget/policy advisors.

The proposal also called for the Department to form its own personnel department, free from its obligation to follow the City’s civil service rules.

Fuentes also proposed capping the annual Transfer Fee at its pre-Prop 26 level.

The motion called for the City Attorney, in consultation with the City Administrative Officer, to prepare a measure to be placed on the ballot in 2016.

The Fuentes proposal is a rush to the ballot box without adequate time to review and analyze the measure and its implications. It is poor public policy as is the lack of Ratepayer participation in the process. Elections are scheduled for June 7 (Presidential Primary), November 8 (Presidential Election), and March 7, 2017 (City Primary).

Proposed Motion

- I. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the DWP Oversight Committee’s call on the City Council to follow the recommendation in the charter mandated Industrial, Economic and Administrative Survey to form “a committee to examine governance reforms for the Department with the explicit task of reporting its findings and recommending a measure for the March 2017 ballot.”
- II. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports that the Governance Committee should be involved in drafting any memorandums and other information from the beginning and includes at least two members from the Neighborhood Councils who are familiar with the operations and finances of DWP.
- III. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports that the DWP Oversight Committee recommends that there be a robust and transparent discussion and debate before any measure is placed on the ballot for voter approval or rejection.
- IV. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the following recommendations be included in any ballot measure for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.
 - a. We support a fiduciary Board of Commissioners consisting of seven (7) qualified members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council serving staggered terms who may not be removed except for

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cause. Four members must live in the City of Los Angeles and three members can live outside of the City if they are a subject matter expert (SME).

- b. We oppose a full time paid Board of Commissioners. Commissioners would be entitled to reasonable per diem fees.
- c. The Board would appoint the General Manager, determine policy, and establish rates.
- d. The City Council would have the right to assert jurisdiction in certain matters, including rates, only for the purpose of affirming or denying the action by a supermajority vote of the City Council.
- e. The Board would be assisted by a more robust Ratepayers Advocate.
- f. Contracting and procurement policies would be modified allowing the Department more flexibility.
- g. The Department would be responsible for labor negotiations.
- h. The Department would establish its own Human Resources Department, separate and distinct from the City's Personnel Department. DWP would not be subject to the City's civil service rules.
- i. The Transfer Fee would be subject to a voter approval.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 0

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

First argument in favor. Use these points to help frame the debate.

Second argument in favor. This bottom part is created with a table in Word. It's easier to use if you display Gridlines (under the Table menu in Word).

Arguments against:

First argument against the motion. Try to be fair.

Another argument against. Add more rows to the table if you have more arguments pro or con.



Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Kevin Gres
Vice-President

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**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836
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Motion to request party permitting and clarify rules and enforcement at Reynier Park

Agenda Item: GB042116-6
Date: 21 April 2016
Proposed By: Parks & Rec Committee

Background

Responding to local concerns about Reynier Park's lack of policing of park rules, the NC, first via the Quality of Life committee, then via the Parks committee, worked with the community to identify specific problems and possible solutions.

In a meeting with senior staff from the Recreation & Parks Department, CD 10, and LAPD in early April, SORO NC learned that the permits are generally not required at unstaffed "pocket" parks. Recreation & Parks seemed amenable to changing the policy at Reynier, provided administrative staffing was available.

In addition, the NC was able to clarify park rules that were omitted, confusing, or contradictory between the community's understanding, park signage, and the Recreation & Parks website. In some cases, additional motions proposing ordinance changes may be required, and will be brought forward at future NC meetings.

Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council calls upon the City's Department of Recreation and Parks to:

- I. Immediately implement the City's existing permitting process for gatherings at Reynier Park;
- II. Assign Robertson Recreation Center (or if increased staffing is not feasible, Cheviot Hills Recreation Center) responsibility for administering permits as well as conducting regular checks at Reynier to make sure that rules were being followed, permits were in order, and facilities were clean (particularly on weekends);
- III. Work with LAPD and the City Attorney's office to explore instituting the Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) program for park violations, which would streamline the issuance of citations and fines;
- IV. After giving the NC a 60 day period to review language, update Reynier Park signage at the two park entrances in both Spanish and English to accurately reflect existing park rules, including but not limited to permits, grill usage, sound/mechanical entertainment limitations, and enforcement contact information;
- V. Correct the information on laparks.org to clarify rules and provide clear contact information for permit requests.





Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 6

Against: 0

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Enforcing park rules will go a long way towards answering community concerns

While Robertson Rec is the preferred choice for administering permits, Cheviot Hills Rec is a reasonable alternative.

Arguments against:

In the short term, it will be difficult to communicate the rules to Park users.

Better to have the program managed through Robertson Rec, even if it means lobbying for additional staff.



Motion to support the City Planning Commission's proposed Sign Ordinance recommendations

Agenda Item: GB042116-7

Date: 21 April 2016

Proposed By: WRAC

Background

The City Council's Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) committee will be considering a new citywide sign ordinance at an upcoming meeting.

In 2002, the City Council approved a ban on new billboards and modifications to existing ones, but it included exceptions for sign districts, specific plans and development agreements. The billboard ban spurred numerous lawsuits by sign companies, successfully arguing that these exceptions were unconstitutional because they undermined the ban's stated purpose of enhancing the city's aesthetics and improving traffic safety.

The Los Angeles City Planning Commission then began debating a new sign ordinance, which eliminated the exceptions for specific plans and development agreements and tightened up the criteria for sign districts, including geographic restrictions as well as a provision requiring billboards to be taken down in surrounding communities before new signs could be put up in sign districts. It languished in committee until a 2010 Appeals Court ruling that reversed the earlier court decision. That triggered yet another rewrite from the Planning Department, more delay, and more lawsuits. In 2012, the Appeals Court weighed in again, ordering the revocation of permits for 101 digital billboards created without any required public process.

The City Planning Commission has now proposed a number of recommendations. Although SORO NC has passed sign motions at least three times in the past, this is the first time we have been able to respond to concrete proposals.

Proposed Motion

- I. SORO NC supports the new Sign Ordinance as approved by the City Planning Commission on 22 October 2015 and urges the PLUM committee and City Council to adopt the version of the ordinance that:
 - Disapproves any amnesty for existing billboards that lack permits or have been altered in violation of their permits;
 - Disapproves the "grandfathering" of any sign districts that weren't approved or applied for in April, 2009, when the CPC approved the initial version of the new sign ordinance;
 - Restricts any new off-site signs, including digital billboards, to sign districts in 22 areas zoned for high-intensity commercial use;
 - Requires existing billboards to be taken down before any new off-site signs can go up in sign districts. The takedown ratio of existing signs to new signs would be 5 to 1 for conventional and 10 to 1 for digital;
 - Sets administrative civil penalties for sign violators that will act as a real deterrent to illegal billboards and other signage;
 - Prohibits off-site signage in city parks and recreation facilities.

Doug Fitzsimmons
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II. SORO NC will communicate this position to the City Council via a Community Impact Statement attached to Council File 11-1705.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 6

Against: 0

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

The current proliferation of unregulated signs is disastrous for residents and communities. It is time the City took a proactive stance, and the current ordinance is a great step forward.

Arguments against:

Although the City has the right to regulate signage, the takedown ratios go too far.



LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

200 N. Spring Street, Room 532, Los Angeles, California, 90012-4801
(213) 978-1300; <http://planning.lacity.org/>

CORRECTED LETTER OF DETERMINATION (correct to file)

Mailing Date: JAN 12 2016

CASE NO.: CPC-2015-3059-CA
CEQA: ENV-2009-9-CE

Location: Citywide
Council Districts: All
Plan Areas: All
Request: Code Amendment

Applicant: City of Los Angeles

At its meeting of October 22, 2015, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission took the following action:

1. **Disapproved** PLUM's Version B of the sign ordinance.
2. **Approved** Version B+ of the sign ordinance.
3. **Took the following actions** on provisions from PLUM's Version A:
 - Allow existing off-site signs that have no permit: **Disapproved.**
 - Allow existing off-site signs out of compliance with permit: **Disapproved.**
 - Allow relocation of an existing off-site sign within the same site with Zoning Administrator's approval: **Disapproved.**
 - Allow digital signs on facades of designated historic buildings within existing sign districts: **Disapproved.**
 - Allow vinyl replacements for pre-1986 murals signs: **Disapproved.**
4. **Took the following actions** on additional proposed provisions:
 - Allow digital signs on rooftops of designated historic buildings within existing sign districts: **Disapproved.**
 - Establish a CUP or other discretionary process to entitle off-site signs outside sign districts: **Disapproved.**
 - Allow off-site signs (static & digital) outside sign districts: **Disapproved.**
 - Allow on-site digital signs citywide: **Disapproved.**
 - Allow off-site digital signs on publicly-owned property: **Not approved, but merits further study.**
 - Establish cap for off-site signs (static & digital) within and outside sign districts: **Disapproved.**
 - Establish cap for off-site signs (static & digital) outside sign districts: **Disapproved.**
5. **Redelegated** the authority to the Director of Planning to act on behalf of the City Planning Commission on the subject case.
6. **Approved** Categorical Exemption No. **ENV-2009-9-CE.**

This action was taken by the following vote:

Moved: Dake-Wilson
Seconded: Millman
Ayes: Ahn, Ambroz, Katz, Mack, Perlman
Absent: Choe, Segura

Vote: 7 - 0



James K. Williams, Commission Executive Assistant II
Los Angeles City Planning Commission

Effective Date/Appeal: The decision of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission is final and not further appealable.

If you seek judicial review of any decision of the City pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5, the petition for writ of mandate pursuant to that section must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which the City's decision became final pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6. There may be other time limits which also affect your ability to seek judicial review.

Attachment: Ordinance, Findings
Principal City Planner: Thomas Rothmann
City Planning Associate: Phyllis Nathanson