



# Land Use and Economic Development Committee Minutes

**Tuesday, January 8, 2013 7:00 PM**

*Meetings end at 8:30pm unless the committee votes to end earlier or extend the time*

**Simon Wiesenthal Center**

1399 Roxbury Dr, Third Floor, Los Angeles, California 90035

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Beth Ryan**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920  
F: (310) 295-9906  
E: info@soronc.org

soronc.org

## **I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Co-chair Victor Mitry called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm

LUED Committee Members Present: Bette Billet, Michael Bloom, Susan Burden, Terrence Gomes, Ellen Lanet, and Jon Liberman,

## **II. General Public Comment**

None

## **III. Approval of last meeting's minutes**

Bette moved to accept with noted corrections, Michael seconded. Minutes Approved.

## **IV. Old Business**

- a. Discussion to not support Metro PCS application for cell location at 1830 Robertson Blvd due to lack of requested documentation. Veronica Arvizu (land use manager) and Brian Chavez (RF engineer) represented Metro. Presented phone traffic map, phone drop calls map, and block call maps. All showed a need for added capacity. Larry Demers had concerns about large trucks blocking alley. Brian stated that Metro uses personal cars for scheduled services not trucks. Michael made a motion to move to full board with committee's support of the Metro project with proof of certificate of occupancy. Jon seconded the motion. 5 Yes votes, with 2 abstain, motion Approved.
- b. Discussion and possible action for a variance request to convert a retail location to a synagogue with reduced parking at 9040 W. Pico Blvd. Daniel Negal, building chair of Adas Torah presented a review of the Victory Furniture conversion to an Orthodox synagogue. Presentation outlined neighborhood support, membership radius map and statistics, and programming for drive and non-drive days. Received 112 letters of support from congregants and non congregants. Membership radius map showed 110 families with 98% within 1 mile. Listed all the possible programming for the non drive and drive days. Bette made a motion to move to the full board with the committee's approval. Michael seconded the motion. Dough offered an amendment to Bette's motion. A forum for future concerns, hold a meeting once the building is constructed and up and running with neighbors at 3 month/ 6 month. Have a rep (point person) representing Adas Torah available for neighbor's concerns. Bette took it as a friendly amendment. Ellen is concerned with parking reduction from 113 to 8. She would like to see the parking increased to 14 with one being a Handicap space. Bette moved to call the question. 5 No votes and 1 Yes vote. Discussion continues. Closure of driveway cuts will create 2 additional meter spaces on Pico. Vote on Bette's motion with 5 Yes, 1 No, motion Approved.

## **V. New Business**



- a. Consideration of Koretz motion to allow a restricted number of medical marijuana dispensaries  
Dough Fitzsimmons presented: City council 3 years ago drafted an ordinance to allow medical marijuana. Since then law suites came in and different rulings come out (PAC Vs. City of Long Beach). Basically you can not regulate an illegal activity because Federal law trumps all laws. Approx. 2000 medical marijuana are in the City of LA. Most are not operating with guidelines of the state laws. The Koretz motion takes a different approach. Basically states that all dispensaries are illegal but we war not going to enforce the law if you meet certain exceptions: 1,000 ft radius, restrictions on hours of operation, limits on the number of dispensaries in the city. Will drop to about 120 dispensaries based on the registered dispensaries in 2007. Currently 12-15 dispensaries in SoRo area and surroundings. Will drop to 2 dispensaries within SoRo. Larry Demerge, whets happening with dispensaries, have not heard of problems and have not seen issues. It's great to have otherwise empty retail spaces occupied with the dispensaries. Voters approved these dispensaries. The city should regulate the crime not close them down. Compare liquor stores to dispensaries and you will see that Liquor stores have more crime. Why is the city not going after illegal crime? Motion to support Koretz motion passes with 6 Yes votes.
- b. Discussion about West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Community Plan: Tabled
- c. Vote to nominate committee chair(s): Tabled

## **VI. Adjournment at 9:30 pm**

### **Notes:**

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*Special thanks to our official posting locations:*

Demers & Associates, The Robertson Blvd Library, The Robertson Recreation Center, The Office of Councilmember Paul Koretz, Malcolm Brown Insurance Co., Hamilton High School, and the SORO NC and DONE websites.

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