PLANNING AND LAND
USE MANAGEMENT
FEB 0 2 2007

MOTION FOR WINDSOR SQAURE
Interim Urgency Ordinance

WHEREAS, the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, ruled that the City of Los Angeles set aside and vacate its decision to approve the Windsor Square Historic Resources Survey and adopt the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone and Preservation Plan, because the City failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act in the adoption of the Windsor Square Historic Overlay Zone; and

WHEREAS, this court decision will leave Windsor Square, one of the richest collections of Period Revival architecture in Southern California, vulnerable to demolition and irreversible alterations that could adversely impact the character of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, a certified historic consultant determined that 1,104 out of 1,239 parcels in Windsor Square were historically significant and "added to the historic architectural qualities or historic associations for which these properties are significant because they were present during the period of significance, and possess historic integrity reflecting its character at that time"; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Windsor Square Historic Preservation Overlay Zone and Preservation Plan is consistent with the goals and objectives of the General Plan's conservation and housing element to "protect important cultural and historical sites and resources for historical, cultural, research, and community education purposes and to identify and protect architecturally and historically significant residences and neighborhoods"; and

WHEREAS, there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare because knowledge that the Windsor Square HPOZ is no longer in effect may drive some owners and developers to obtain building and demolition permits until the Windsor Square HPOZ and Preservation Plan is re-adopted, effectively accelerating the destruction of historically and architecturally significant structures in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has decided to study the appropriate level of environmental clearance necessary to re-certify the Windsor Square Historic Resources Survey and re-adopt the Windsor Square Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) and Preservation Plan and in doing so requires more time to complete the study and analysis and re-process the HPOZ and Preservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is urgent to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by immediately preventing demolitions and alterations that could result in the loss of historically important resources and stopping incompatible new construction that could jeopardize the overall character of the Windsor Square neighborhood until the revisions to the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone can be considered.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council adopt the attached urgency ordinance, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65858, establishing a temporary moratorium on the issuance of building and demolition permits for properties

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EG O\D CF 04-1848 + SUPPS

within the re-initiated Windsor Square Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) generally bounded by Beverly Boulevard on the north, both sides of Arden Boulevard on the west, both sides of Van Ness Avenue on the east, and the rear property lines of the commercially zoned properties along Wilshire Boulevard on the south, but excluding commercially and multi-family – R3 zoned lots.

PRESENTED BY: _____
TOM LABONGE,
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: _____

FEB 02 2007