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CITY PLANNING**

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August 7, 2023

Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

Attention: PLUM Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

**REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PLANNING AND LAND USE FEES UPDATE
AND ANNUAL INFLATION ADJUSTMENT (CF 09-0969-S4)**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. APPROVE an amendment to Article 9 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) establishing three new planning and land use fees, as outlined in the fee schedule attached to the March 16th report, and a base fee model inclusive of the 2023 CPI adjusted fee amounts to facilitate future implementation of the annual inflation adjustment; and
2. INSTRUCT the Office of the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance to amend Article 9 of Chapter 1 of the LAMC in accordance with the proposed fee changes described in Recommendation 1 and any changes necessary to implement Ordinance 187,237, Ordinance 187,712, and Ordinance 187,930.

The Department of City Planning (City Planning) has revised its recommendations for the City Council's consideration relative to the planning and land use fees update and annual inflation adjustment initially described in City Planning's report from March 16, 2023. These revised recommendations reflect changes resulting from the application of the first annual inflation adjustment on July 1, 2023 in accordance with Ordinance 187,237 (also known as the Comprehensive Fee Update Ordinance) and the adoption of Ordinance No. 187,930 on July 7, 2023 to extend the operative date of Ordinance 187,712 (commonly referred to as the Processes and Procedures Ordinance) to January 22, 2024. As such, the proposed fee updates outlined in the March 16th report and detailed in the attached fee study must now be adopted by the City Council at least 60 days in advance of January 22, 2024 in accordance with California Government Code Section 66017 to ensure that there will be no gap in implementation of the updated fee schedule.

DISCUSSION OF REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Recommendation 1 from City Planning's March 16, 2023 report read as follows:

APPROVE an amendment to Article 9 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) establishing three new planning and land use fees and a base fee model to implement the previously authorized Annual Inflation Adjustment, as outlined in the attached fee schedule.

In the time since the report was transmitted, City Planning has applied the first annual inflation adjustment of 4.9% on July 1, 2023. This adjustment reflects the latest change in year-over-year Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Los Angeles Area, as established by Ordinance 187,237. An updated fee schedule was provided to the Mayor and the City Council in advance of the July 1, 2023 effective date in compliance with LAMC Section 19.00 E, as well as published on City Planning's social media, emailed to all interested parties, and posted on City Planning's website for public review. The updated fee schedule, which incorporates the 2023 CPI adjusted fee amounts, will henceforth be the starting point for the base fee model.

As such, City Planning has revised Recommendation 1 to read as follows:

APPROVE an amendment to Article 9 of Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) establishing three new planning and land use fees, as outlined in the fee schedule attached to the March 16th report, and a base fee model inclusive of the 2023 CPI adjusted fee amounts to facilitate future implementation of the annual inflation adjustment.

Recommendation 2

Recommendation 2 from City Planning's March 16, 2023 report read as follows:

INSTRUCT the Office of the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance to amend Article 9 of Chapter 1 of the LAMC in accordance with the proposed fee changes described in Recommendation 1 and any changes necessary to implement Ordinance No. 187,712 and 187,237.

In the time since the report was transmitted, Ordinance 187,930 was adopted on July 7, 2023 to extend the operative date of Ordinance 187,712 from July 22, 2023 to January 22, 2024.

As the proposed three new planning and land use fees should be operative in alignment with Ordinances 187,712 and 187,930, City Planning has revised Recommendation 2 to read as follows:

INSTRUCT the Office of the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance to amend Article 9 of Chapter 1 of the LAMC in accordance with the proposed fee changes described in Recommendation 1 and any changes necessary to implement Ordinance 187,237, Ordinance 187,712, and Ordinance 187,930.

If you have any questions, please contact Ly Lam, Senior Management Analyst II, at ly.t.lam@lacity.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Bertoni', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
Director of Planning

VPB:AV:kb:hsc:bk