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August 25, 2017

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:

NON-APPLICANT APPEALS REPORT BACK (CF 09-0969)

On December 29, 2016, the Department of City Planning (DCP) transmitted its 2016 Comprehensive Fee Study (Fee Study) to the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee for consideration. Although the Fee Study identified the full cost to provide project planning services, our Department recommended continuing a subsidized fee similar to that adopted by the Council in 2009. The Department recommended a non-applicant appeal fee of \$271, as opposed to the full cost of \$13,538.

On July 26, 2017, the Office of the City Administrative Office (CAO) released a report that identified and recommended increasing fees to full cost recovery consistent with the revenue and expenditure assumptions contained in the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Adopted Budget.

In response to a PLUM Committee request, the DCP and CAO released a joint report on August 8, 2017, which provided: a) five options for charging appeal fees and consideration for a hardship exemption; b) graphical representations of the General Fund subsidy impact for each option based on appeal data from Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 to FY 2016-17; c) a comparison chart of regional municipalities and their appeal fee structure; and d) an explanation for some fee increases greater than 50 percent.

On August 15, 2017, the PLUM Committee requested a report back within two weeks on the fiscal impact of introducing an increase to the existing non-applicant appeal fee based on cost of living increases (74 percent). This results in a fee of \$155 which is similar to the Department's recommendation; therefore, a \$3.8 million General Fund subsidy will need to be accounted for to support a \$155 non-applicant appeal fee.

In addition, PLUM requested a breakdown of the non-applicant appellant's geographic proximity to the project site. The Planning Case Tracking System does not contain appellant addresses for all appeal cases. Therefore, the Department will need to manually review each case to provide the requested information to the Committee and will submit this information as soon as it is available.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Jan Zatorski at (213) 978-1273.

Sincerely,

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

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
Director of Planning

VPB:KJK:jz