

DEPARTMENT OF  
CITY PLANNING

COMMISSION OFFICE  
(213) 978-1300

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

MONIQUE LAWSHE  
PRESIDENT

CAROLINE CHOE  
VICE-PRESIDENT

PRISCILLA CHAVEZ  
MARTINA DIAZ

SARAH JOHNSON  
PHYLLIS KLEIN

BRIAN ROSENSTEIN  
JACOB SAITMAN  
ELIZABETH ZAMORA

City of Los Angeles  
CALIFORNIA



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4801  
(213) 978-1271

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP  
DIRECTOR

KEVIN J. KELLER, AICP  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SHANA M.M. BONSTIN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

HAYDEE URITA-LOPEZ  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ARTHI L. VARMA, AICP  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

LISA M. WEBBER, AICP  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

CRAIG R. WEBER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

June 30, 2026

The Honorable City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
City Hall, Room 395  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

**REPORT ON OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC ZONING EXEMPTION ORDINANCE IN  
RESPONSE TO AMENDING MOTION 11E TO INCLUDE A 14-DAY "SHOT-CLOCK"  
PROVISION FOR SIGN APPLICATIONS (CF 15-0989-S47)**

On February 3, 2026, the City Council considered the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee Report and the Ad Hoc Committee on the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games Report relative to the adoption of the proposed 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Planning and Zoning Exemption Ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to exempt certain 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Games) related projects from planning and zoning requirements of the City's Zoning Code in preparation for the 2028 Games (proposed Ordinance). Both reports were adopted by the City Council alongside Amending Motions 11B, 11C, 11D, 11E, and 11F as documented in CF 15-0989-S47.

Motion 11E specifically directed the Department of City Planning (DCP) to incorporate a 14-day "shot clock" provision to mandate a set decision timeline for temporary sign applications, and required that DCP report back on possible consequences if the 14-day shot clock is not adhered to. In response, DCP, in coordination with the Office of the City Attorney, amended the proposed Ordinance to incorporate a time to act provision requiring that the City liaisons act within 14 business days. The 14 business day shot clock would commence after an administrative review application, which is required for all temporary signage, is deemed complete by DCP.

After the proposed Ordinance is adopted and effective, DCP's Development Services Center will intake all administrative review applications for temporary signage proposed under this Ordinance. DCP staff will review the application for compliance with the applicability and eligibility requirements in the proposed Ordinance. Pursuant to the proposed Ordinance, all temporary signs must be approved by the four Games liaisons in order to be granted the planning and zoning relief.

Once DCP staff deems the application complete, DCP will distribute the temporary signage application to the Games liaisons for their required authorization. For clarity, the 14-day shot clock would not start when the applicants submit their application but rather only once the application has been deemed complete by planning staff, including verifying that the temporary sign meets all applicability requirements under the Ordinance.

### **Recommended Process - Internal Administrative Oversight**

To ensure temporary signage authorizations from the liaisons are processed within 14 business days, DCP has established new procedures and a centralized tracking system. If one or more of the liaisons, for any reason, does not act within the 14 business days, DCP will internally escalate the application, and directly coordinate with the liaison(s) that did not act on the application to expedite their review and decision.

The 14-day shot clock will be monitored by DCP and will commence once an application has been deemed complete by DCP staff. A deemed complete application would be considered complete once DCP has determined that the project meets all applicability requirements and has submitted the required documentation. Once DCP deems the application complete, the application will be forwarded to the Games liaisons for authorization review at which point the 14-day shot clock would commence. DCP determines the completeness of all applications. If DCP requires additional documentation or information, the application will not be deemed complete and will be placed on hold until DCP receives all required materials. DCP will generate a planning case number for all signage seeking the planning and zoning relief to track the project as it makes its way through the various authorization reviews. The case numbers will be utilized for internal tracking purposes as well as to communicate with the applicants.

Staff advises against the implementation of automatic "deemed approved" or "deemed denied" mechanisms should the 14-day review window expire, as both outcomes are not inline with the policy objective of a unanimous approval from the liaisons. A "deemed approved" scenario creates a critical gap in administrative oversight, potentially authorizing signage and bypassing the required vetting by all of the Games liaisons. An automatic approval would remove the assurance of due diligence and informed deliberation by DCP and the liaisons. Conversely, a "deemed denied" mechanism may trigger unnecessary rejections of project applications and force application restarts leading to further administrative delays.

The use of automatic mechanisms conflict with the goal of liaison oversight. Both scenarios prevent the Games liaisons from performing their essential function under the proposed Ordinance, to ensure that every temporary sign authorized for the relief has been evaluated for its contribution to the success of the Games. Ultimately, these automatic defaults undermine the policy intent of the proposed Ordinance, which is to ensure that every sign application undergoes a proactive eligibility review by the Games liaisons.

### **Conclusion- Internal Administrative Oversight**

The Department of City Planning has integrated the 14-day shot clock provision as instructed by Motion 11E into the proposed Ordinance, establishing a streamlined, centralized tracking system to facilitate temporary signage approvals for the 2028 Games. To preserve the integrity of the regulatory process, the Department of City Planning recommends an internal escalation and inquiry protocol rather than automatic "deemed approved" or "deemed denied" mechanisms.

These automatic outcomes would either bypass essential oversight or create unnecessary administrative bottlenecks. By prioritizing proactive communication and administrative extensions, the City can ensure that all signage undergoes the necessary review from the Games liaisons while meeting the accelerated timelines required for Olympic and Paralympic preparations.

Please reach out to Deputy Director Craig Weber at [craig.weber@lacity.org](mailto:craig.weber@lacity.org) for any questions.

Sincerely,

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

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP  
Director of Planning

VPB: cw: bl: av: hsc: nc