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**PAUL KORETZ**  
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May 12, 2022

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:

**RE: REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS TO THE WESTWOOD VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT, CASE NO. CPC-2021-795-SP; CF 18-1101**

I am writing to express my excitement and anticipation for the Westwood Village Specific Plan amendments that will be before your Committee on May 17, 2022. The amendments, which represent the hard work and collaboration of the neighborhood's many stakeholders, my office, and Planning staff, will help realize the potential of Westwood Village in the modern era while addressing the chronic retail vacancy issue. Council District 5 is committed to ensuring that the businesses in this community are given the opportunity to thrive and contribute to making Westwood Village a special place in the City of Los Angeles.

I support the proposed Specific Plan amendments related to changes of use, parking requirements for new construction, revised definitions of various food uses, removal of street-based food type restrictions, and the various other policy and regulatory changes in the current proposal. However, I recommend that the parking exemption threshold for changes of use be increased to 15,000 square feet. As we encourage new businesses to come into the Village, this change is necessary to reduce the barriers to entry for new businesses. Specifically, Section 10.F.1.c and e should be amended to read:

Section 10.F.1.c: "The change of use is limited to 15,000 square feet of floor area or less."

Section 10.F.1.e: "At no time shall tenant spaces utilizing this Section be allowed to aggregate or combine spaces that would result in a floor area greater than 15,000 square feet. If this occurs, then the parking for the whole tenant space shall conform with the provisions in Section 12.21 A.4."

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Regarding the review of signs, I support the Planning Department's proposed sign review procedures and I want to ensure that all new signs are of the high quality expected within Westwood. I recognize that signage has been one of the most contentious points of discussion during this update process and I would like to thank everyone involved for their time and research on this issue. Signs have the ability to affect the retail environment in many ways. It is important to remember that under the proposed sign review procedures, signs that comply with the numerous design standards in the Specific Plan will be eligible for administrative review. Planning staff will, as a matter of policy, provide notice to the Design Review Board members, as a courtesy, when administrative sign applications are submitted. The members will have the opportunity to flag compliance issues if they so choose; this, along with Planning staff's careful review, will ensure that the quality of signs in Westwood continues to be exemplary. Signs that do not comply with the design standards in the Specific Plan or that require a Certificate of Appropriateness will still be required to go before the Design Review Board. I believe that this process will strike the necessary balance to produce the best outcomes for Westwood Village.

Once adopted, the proposed amendments will open the next chapter for Westwood Village. I look forward to welcoming everyone back to Westwood Village as we begin to resume daily life after dealing with so many tragedies over the last few years with COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Koretz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**PAUL KORETZ**

Councilmember, Fifth District