

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Woodland Hills-Warner Center

Name: Sheppard Kaufman

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(20) Nay(1) Abstain(1) Ineligible(1) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/14/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 05/19/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1044

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: This motion, passed by the Board of the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council on April 12, 2021, reflects the Board's concerns that the proposal to earmark "High Value Projects" (an undefined term subject to discretionary abuse) in order to remove them from the City PLUM process and move them to a final determination by the full City Council was judged flawed and ill-considered by the WHWCNC Board. The premise was to decrease any opportunity for illegal influence and corruption on significant building projects by taking the approval process away from the City PLUM and charging the entire City Council with arriving at a final decision. The WHWCNC Board adjudged that this change in the City's approval process removes a critical step in consideration by the City, eliminates a much-needed opportunity for communities to appeal any decision before major projects reach the full City Council, and over-burdens sitting Councilmembers who will not have adequate time, understanding, resources or awareness to render an accurate and fair evaluation of each project. We are asking the City Council, the City Attorney and the Mayor to reject this proposal and retain the City's Planning evaluation system as it currently functions.



Community Impact Statement / 04-14-21

To: Los Angeles City Council and Committees
From: Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council (WHWCNC)
Re: 20-1044 High Value Development Projects
Position: AGAINST-unless Amended

*The Board Approved this CIS on 04/14/21 by a vote of:
Aye (20) – Nay (1) – Abstain (1) – Ineligible (1)*
Update to Previous Input: NO

Concerning the amended City Council Motion on High Value Projects (CF 20-1044) adopted by the Los Angeles City Council on February 16, 2021, the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council (WHWCNC) requests that the City Council reconsider their decision to move evaluations of “High Value” projects directly to the full City Council Board instead of the City’s PLUM Committee until full resolution on key evaluation issues can be reached:

WHEREAS, while the WHWCNC fully appreciates the efforts to reduce corruption in its determinations, we believe bypassing the City Council’s Planning, Land Use and Mobility (PLUM) Committee to fully vet and evaluate the most impactful projects in the City and their effects on the communities they intend to build in; and,

WHEREAS, the WHWCNC recognizes that these “High Value” projects should provide the public all the opportunities to comment on the significant impacts to their neighborhoods, land values and traffic effects; and,

WHEREAS, the amended motion would have the effect of limiting public participation in the approval process by elimination of any hearing held by the City PLUM Committee; and

WHEREAS, the City has presented no quantifiable determination as to exactly what constitutes a “High Value” project, nor has it shown that the Councilmembers have the time, staffing or depth of understanding to provide each Councilmember with a full understanding of all the significant issues that could/will significantly impact a neighborhood or community; and

WHEREAS, even the determination of who designates a project as “High Value,” and who makes the final decision to either send it to the City PLUM or to the full City Council has not been proposed to the public; and

WHEREAS, the amended City Council resolution makes no effort to create a true independent review of these “High Value” projects which will cost hundreds of millions of dollars and affect the lifestyles of hundreds of thousands of Los Angeles residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City has created no barriers to the lawyers, private planners and other individuals in promoting a “High Value” project to Council Members, thus creating the opportunity for even more City decision makers to be targets for corruption;

(cont’d next page)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council strongly urges the Los Angeles City Council to reconsider their amended motion of High Value projects that was passed on February 16, 2021, and delay reconsidering the motion again until:

1. A specific definition of a “High Value” project is determined by Planning, the public and the City Council
2. A determination as to exactly which individual(s) will have the authority to determine if a project is sent to the City PLUM Committee or sent directly to the full City Council for resolution.
3. A solution is found that creates a greater timeframe and more generous appeal process for the public—and specifically for stakeholders in the neighborhood where the project is slated to be built--before the sitting City Council members make any final decisions.
4. A process for providing greater awareness of these “High Value” projects is in place so that communities and neighborhoods can more fully be involved in the City Council’s determinations.
5. A process be developed to limit or provide notice of contact outside of public meetings between “High Value” applicants or their representative and the Members of the City Council or their staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council requests the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles Planning Department and the City Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to perform greater outreach to the residents and business of the City of Los Angeles and to their elected Neighborhood Councils so that the constituents of this City can have a greater voice in the most significant projects impacting our lives and lifestyles.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Joyce Fletcher
President
Woodland Hills-Warner Center NC



Sheppard Kautman
Vice President
Woodland Hills-Warner Center NC

Cc: Councilmember Blumenfield (CD3)