

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: It is WRONG to list neighborhood councils as being in favor of something when those who submitted motions did not pass motions in favor of what is currently being considered and voted upon. Consideration of this item should not proceed as scheduled. Those neighborhood councils listed in favor voted in support of the original council motion seeking additional information for the Council from Public Works/StreetsLA pertaining to the proposed STAP program. It had nothing to do with the LAMC - an LAMC that was not introduced until the STAP MND was released. (And it should be noted that many of the items raised in the original Council motion were never reported back to the Council as requested in the motion.) Most important: The new section makes no mention and appears to remove Council authority and vest it solely in the Board of Public Works. If you look at the old language and compare it to the new the change is quite clear: Current language: (b) The provisions of Subsection (a) of this section, however, shall not apply, to transit shelters exempted by the City Council from said provisions. (Added by Ord. No. 152,930, Eff. 10/19/79.) Under current code, it has been the City Council that had the power to make exemptions. No mention was made about the Board of Public Works. Proposed language: (b) The provisions of Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to any outdoor advertising structure associated with an outdoor advertising program for the public right-of-way that is approved by the Board of Public Works. Under the proposed language, there is no mention of the Council's authority or participation. WHAT IS THE JUSTIFICATION FOR PERMITTING POLITICAL APPOINTEES TO HAVE SOLE AUTHORITY OVER OUR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY? WHY IS THE COUNCIL PERMITTING THIS TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY AND WRITING IT INTO THE CODE??? There are additional related policy issues that the Council should consider before voting on this item, but it will be up to the Council as to whether or not to do their full due diligence before taking action. The new programs that will be allowed under STAP's language and which could now be approved by Public Works action could undermine the City's legal authority to regulate off-site signage. The Council should request a written opinion from the City Attorney as to the City's authority to regulate off-site signage, issues related to past Court

cases and the City's adopted Sign Ordinance. How is it that the Board of Public Works could take actions that could undermine the Planning Dept. and Council's work to regulate off-site signage under this newly adopted measure? The City Attorney appears only to review documents drafted for "form" -- ignoring content unless specifically instructed to do so. Sounds like the City's silo system of management is healthy and thriving -- at the future expense of the public's right-of-way and our shared and important visual environment. REMEMBER: Tourists come to LA to see our beaches, mountains and the Hollywood Sign -- not advertising signs and billboards plastered across the City.