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May 1, 2026

Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

Attention: Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

CITY PLANNING CHARTER REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS; CF 26-0489

Transmitted herein are the Department of City Planning's written comments pertaining to the five Charter reform proposals that were recommended by the Charter Reform Commission. Our department worked closely with the Charter Reform Commission and affirms these five recommendations. These recommendations serve to streamline and clarify various Department operations and will enable us to better serve the local community.

- CRC 6 - Charter Section 552, Area Planning Commissions
- CRC 7 - Charter Section 245(e), Veto Authority
- CRC 8 - Charter Section 555, General Plan Amendments
- CRC 9 - Charter Section 104(e), Floor Area Limitations
- CRC 10 - Charter Sections 561-564, Quasi-judicial Decision Making

Sincerely,

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
Director of Planning

VPB:crw

Enclosures

Template Response to Charter Reform Recommendations

Proposed Charter Reform Recommendation: CRC 6 - Charter Section 552, Area Planning Commissions

Responding Department: City Planning

Administrative Impact(s): This reform measure will streamline the process to administer appeal body hearings. Currently City Planning manages the onboarding, ongoing training, and support of 35 Area Planning Commissioners across seven Area Planning Commissions, and 14 monthly Brown Act compliant commission meetings. This reform measure would reduce the seven APCs to a single Citywide appeal body that meets twice monthly.

Fiscal Impact(s): This reform measure will result in reduced overtime for staff attending regularly occurring evening APC meetings and will result in a modest decrease in operational costs associated with executing APC meetings.

Administrative or Charter Amendment Required: Charter amendment required.

Advantages/Disadvantages of Proposal: Proposal serves to streamline the administration of appeal body hearings and will improve uniform decision-making across the City.

Additional Concerns: N/A

Departmental Liaison Contact: Craig Weber, Deputy Director

Proposed Charter Reform Recommendation: CRC 7 - Charter Section 245(e), Veto Authority

Responding Department: City Planning

Administrative Impact(s): N/A

Fiscal Impact(s): N/A

Administrative or Charter Amendment Required: Charter amendment required

Advantages/Disadvantages of Proposal: The Charter reform measure will clarify procedures related to the City Council's veto and remand authority concerning actions by the City Planning Commission or Area Planning Commission, offering clarity, and established timelines for action.

Additional Concerns: N/A

Departmental Liaison Contact: Craig Weber, Deputy Director

Proposed Charter Reform Recommendation: CRC 8 - Charter Section 555, General Plan Amendments

Responding Department: City Planning

Administrative Impact(s): N/A

Fiscal Impact(s): N/A

Administrative or Charter Amendment Required: May be accomplished through a Zoning Code Amendment (LAMC 13.1.1.D.5.c)

Advantages/Disadvantages of Proposal: Proposal will ensure that General Plan Amendments that have an affirmative recommendation from the City Planning Commission and the Mayor will not be deemed denied should the City Council fail to act within the requisite 75-day timeframe.

Additional Concerns: Proposal may create unintended consequences with respect to the necessary certification or adoption of an environmental clearance (CEQA) along with the General Plan Amendment.

Departmental Liaison Contact: Craig Weber, Deputy Director

Proposed Charter Reform Recommendation: CRC 9 - Charter Section 104(e), Floor Area Limitations

Responding Department: City Planning

Administrative Impact(s): N/A

Fiscal Impact(s): N/A

Administrative or Charter Amendment Required: Charter amendment required

Advantages/Disadvantages of Proposal: Proposal will allow for the City, through new zoning ordinances to exceed the limitation of 13:1 Floor Area Ratio that was established in 1957, allowing the City to better accommodate growth and investment in Regional Centers such as Downtown, Hollywood, or Century City.

Additional Concerns: N/A

Departmental Liaison Contact: Craig Weber, Deputy Director

Proposed Charter Reform Recommendation: CRC 10 - Charter Sections 561-564, Quasi-judicial Decision Making

Responding Department: City Planning

Administrative Impact(s): N/A

Fiscal Impact(s): N/A

Administrative or Charter Amendment Required: Charter amendment required

Advantages/Disadvantages of Proposal: Proposal removes redundant language pertaining to discretionary review procedures that is also within the Zoning Code (Sections 562-564). Proposal clarifies the breadth of quasi-judicial decision-makers within City Planning beyond just the Office of Zoning Administration.

Additional Concerns:

Departmental Liaison Contact: Craig Weber, Deputy Director