

The Mar Vista Community Council OPPOSES Council File 09-0969-S3 in which the City Council is proposing, at the suggestion of the Mayor, that the Appeal Fee, charged to members of the community and community organizations, which is currently \$89.00 (which is already beyond the reach of many of the City's residents), be increased to the amount of \$16,097, for the reasons stated below.

The Department of Planning, at the request of the Mayor, did a cost analysis report regarding recommendations for fee increases to shift burden from the General Fund to a cost capture calculation that would cover the costs of the services provided. In that report, the Department of Planning recommended a fee increase from \$89 to \$158, (quoted below) which would be a small percentage of the cost of processing an appeal, which costs are paid from the General Fund (which is taxpayer funded).

*“One of the most heavily subsidized areas is the non-applicant-initiated appeal fee. The current appeal fee is \$89, and City Planning has proposed an increase to \$158, which is pegged to 1% of the total cost of appeal processing of about \$15,811. This results in an overall General Fund subsidy of roughly \$3.3 million annually. All other fees are recommended at 100 percent full cost recovery.”*

Instead, the City Council and specifically the PLUM Committee, has recommended and proposed that the fee be increased to more than \$16,000.

This is a transparent attempt to quash any public discussion, public participation and access to the land use and planning processes in our City, and in the decision making that directly affects everyone's local neighborhood and planning area.

Such an increase would also most disproportionately silence communities of color that have been historically disenfranchised from the land use planning process and have borne decades of land use decisions that have further marginalized their communities.

The proposal to raise the fee from \$89 to more than \$16,000 was not noticed to Neighborhood Councils or to members of the public, but rather 3 notices were given: 2 published in the Daily Journal (not a publication read by most community members outside of the business or legal community) and a letter sent to the Builders Association of America.

This fee increase represents a massive gift to developers, land use lawyers, lobbyists, expeditors and special interests in City Hall as evidenced by the lack of public notice and specific special interest notices.

Further there has been NO outreach on this issue to HOAs or other organizations that would have their voices silenced by such an outlandish fee. No public interest group that represents disenfranchised and under represented communities received any outreach as well.

For all the reasons above, and the policy of attempting to silence the community and those whose rights would be lost in the land use planning process,

The Mar Vista Community Council OPPOSES any such proposed fee increase which is already subsidized by the taxpayers of this City through the General Fund.