CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

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JUNE LAGMAY
City Clerk
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HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
Executive Officer
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When making inquiries relative to
this matter, please refer to the
Council File No.
11-0923

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

February 21, 2013

Michael LoGrande
Director of Planning

Olga Garay
Executive Director, Department of Cultural Affairs

Robert R. "Bud" Ovrom, General Manager
Department of Building and Safety

Honorable Carmen A. Trutanich, City Attorney
Room 800, City Hall East

Attn: Terry Kaufmann-Macias
        Kenneth Fong

PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REQUESTS

At a regular meeting held on January 15, 2013 (continued from November 20, 2012), the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee considered Categorical Exemption and related California Environmental Quality Act findings, reports from the Los Angeles City Planning Commission relative to a proposed ordinance amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sections 14.4.2, 14.4.3, 14.4.4, and 14.4.20 and amending Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) Sections 5.111.2 and 22.116 and adding Section 22.119 to the LAAC to allow for the creation of new original art murals and the preservation of existing original art murals on private property.

The Committee took the following actions:

1. Requested the Office of the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance to do the following:

    • Incorporate the recommended changes noted on page two of the Department of City Planning (DCP) report dated January 4, 2013.

    • Delete the residential restriction where murals can first be located so that no restriction exists in a Citywide baseline ordinance.

- Add an instruction for the DCP to add a reference to existing land use tools to allow local communities to request restrictions on residential properties in coordination with the local Council Offices.

- Include a delay in implementation of the Citywide mural ban by 90 days.

- Include a clarification in LAMC Section 14.4.20 that all Vintage Art Murals, created prior to the date of the adoption of the ordinance, are not considered signs, whether registered or not, and to clarify provisions as necessary for Vintage Art Murals in the proposed LAAC Section 22.119, per verbal request of Councilmember Huizar at January 15, 2013 PLUM meeting.

- Include a provision that any mural in the City that meets the criteria will automatically be grandfathered.

2. Instructed the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) to:

- Include/add a reference in the administrative rules and the registration application that VARA and CAPA (federal and state regulations) are to be upheld and nothing in the ordinance meant to remove compliance with them.

- Provide notice to the entities with existing exterior murals on private property and to automatically process registration certificates to facilitate the registration in the DCA database.

3. Directed the DCA, in conjunction with the Department of Building and Safety (DBS) and the DCP, to notify the artist community, property owners with murals, to the full extent possible, including through the websites of the DCA, DBS, and DCP, newspaper, artist networks relative to the Vintage Mural Permit/Amnesty Program.

4. Instructed the DCA and the DBS, with the assistance of the DCP, to inform the Department of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification and other vandalism abatement agencies of the adopted ordinance and VARA and CAPA to safeguard against mural removals.

Please transmit the requested document(s) to the City Council, c/o the City Clerk's Office, Room 395, City Hall and reference Council file No. 11-0923. If you have questions, I may be reached at (213) 978-1074 or at Sharon.Gin@lacity.org.

Thank you,

Sharon Gin
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
213.978.1074
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