

TO: Vince Bartoni, Department of Planning, Dan Halden, Bureau of Street Services/StreetsLA External Relations Team

CC: Carmen Chang, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Karen Lane, Deputy Mayor of Community Empowerment

In the Los Angeles City Charter, Article IX, 907 Early Notification System indicates that “Regulations shall establish procedures for receiving input from neighborhood councils prior to decisions by the City Council, City Council Committees and boards and commissions. The procedures shall include, but not nee to be limited to, notice to neighborhood councils as soon as practical and a reasonable opportunity to provide input before decisions are made. Notices to be provided included matters to be considered by City Council, City Council Committees and City boards or commissions.”

This clause exists because it is recognized that sufficient time is to be granted to Neighborhood Councils to provide recommendations and input on determinations that impact their respective communities. It is also necessary to receive said notice in order notify their communities with information necessary to empower their stakeholders, receive their input, and give communities the opportunity and time to take their own actions on City decisions that will affect them.

This is not happening.

In the Spring of 2023(?) a mailing system issue resulted in no City agencies being able to contact the neighborhood councils with the appropriate notifications and moreover the neighborhood councils were not notified that they were not receiving these notifications. Instead, the lack of notice led boards to believe there was no respective activity.

Even though a solution was created to that mailing problem, the Planning Department and Streets LA ceased to provide notices to the boards on issues that qualified under Section 907.

Secondly, The Department of Planning has some types of developments that have expedited decision making that does not provide a hearing but DOES have discretionary components on applicant requests for waivers on height, green space, D Limitation requests, CEQA, etc.. Again, these are discretionary components that although not determined in a hearing will take valid community input in determining whether or not to grant. These are projects that often will have a significant impact on the community, such as Executive Directive 1 (ED1) 100% affordable projects, and such projects are given rapid timelines in which an NC has limited time to process and submit. Yet the DOP is not providing adequate notice nor is sufficient easy access to these types of projects.

Additionally, the DOP is not making it easy for NCs to find the information that they need. Some examples:

- DOP has not provided information on how to find the Case Summary page for ADM ED1 projects
- The hyperlinks on ZIMAS under “Planning and Zoning-Adminstrative Review” do NOT hyperlink to an active page
- The ED1 Case Summary Page does not provide a filter by NC

As it pertains to the StreetsLA, when the mailing issue happened, it also prevented the NCS from receiving the appropriate singular and 3+ tree removal notices that are heard in subsequent hearings. Then in July '23, it decided it would simply stop sending the notices to the NCs "due to budgetary constraints". However, this is not in compliance with the Charter. BSS/StreetsLA also never advised the NCS of its administrative decision.

#### PLANNING

- 1) Though the DOP continues to issue its biweekly ENS report to subscribers on discretionary planning projects that will have a hearing component, **the DOP does not send these reports to the NCs even though the Charter requires it**, nor has at any time advised neighborhood councils of this cessation or how to subscribe to receive.

**ACTION ITEM: Planning Department re-establish sending the bi-weekly ENS report mailings to the NCs.**

- 2) Non-discretionary planning projects action items **ACTION ITEMS:**
  - Put all ADM and PAR projects on the aforementioned ENS report OR send separate ENS reports on ADM and PAR projects
  - Provide instructions to NCs on how to review ADM and PAR cases in ZIMAS as they do not appear under "Case Numbers" in ZIMAS; alternatively, list the ADM and PAR cases under "Case Numbers" in addition to the "Planning & Zoning-Administrative Review" section.
  - Provide deadlines to submit to Planning on such cases
  - Ensure that the hyperlinks for such cases are attached to active files
  - Specific to ED1 cases, place an NC filter on the Case Summary page

#### STREETSLA

**ACTION ITEM: Resume sending NCs the appropriate notices of tree removals, with the additional stipulation of with sufficient notice for an NC to be able to act.**

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It is critical that the City act in accordance with the City Charter as is required. Without an audit it would be difficult to determine how many planning cases may have had different outcomes if it the NCs had been receiving the appropriate ENS notice. LANCC members have spent time contacting NCs to point out to members that the reports are no longer appearing and that individual members need to make efforts to receive such notices. Either through neglect or intention, non-compliance of this Charter rule disenfranchises NCs and their communities. It also gives the appearance of intentional bypass of transparency.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the correction of these issues.