

## Communication from Public

**Name:** tom grode

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**Comments for Public Posting:** Recognizing Skid Row As A Neighborhood was the name given by the Department of City Planning to their section about Skid Row in the official presentation of DTLA 2040 to the Los Angeles Planning Commissioners back in September 2021. This title from City Planning echoes the corruption in City Hall when Skid Row tried to get her own Neighborhood Council through the new City Hall process called Subdivision. DTLA 2040 (what will Downtown look like in the year 2040) began in 2016 as the process to update the Downtown Community Plan. There are 33 Community Plan areas in Los Angeles and Community Plans set Land Use Policy with the zoning tools to implement the policy. Skid Row as a nickname for an undefined section of Downtown Los Angeles began in the late 1800's. Skid Row in a formal sense began in the mid-1970's when City Hall created the Policy of Containment which set physical boundaries for Skid Row. The essence of the Policy of Containment was that social services for the poor and homeless would be centered in Skid Row, and the old single room occupancy hotels would be renovated as government subsidized housing. The Policy of Containment for Skid Row was a response to the Eminent Domain/Urban Renewal destruction of the affordable housing in Bunker Hill that happened earlier. In the wake of the murder of George Floyd in 2020, the Department of City Planning sent out an email saying of their 400 staff, about 25% of them work in City Planning specifically for Equity purposes given the damage done to people of color and the poor by previous generations of urban planning. My name is Tom Grode and I lived in Skid Row from 2013 to 2017. I've been part of the Skid Row Now and 2040 coalition since it began several years ago. What the media hasn't picked up on and not many people realize is that DTLA 2040 by updating Land Use Policy in Downtown is a Reform Movement. It was the reality of an outdated and ineffective Community Plan that set the stage for a culture of variances, or spot zoning, where bribery in its different forms helped determine who got to build what in Downtown. This culture of variances is why Jose Huizar is heading to prison. The DTLA 2040 process by City Planning was marked by transparency. When the proposed updated Plan moved from City Planning to City Council last summer, DTLA 2040 has been marked by a complete lack of transparency. One example is a

legal process was announced the day the Plan was approved by City Council which would take between six months to a year before implementation could begin and no status update on that process exists. Another example is a multi-dimensional amendment impacting Skid Row that came out of nowhere was added to the Plan by Councilmember De Leon's office literally minutes before it was approved by City Council. And so here we are many months later, governed by rumor, with a Plan signed off by the Mayor but not being implemented in any sort of manner where the public can engage or even understand. The culture of variances is intact and history is watching.