

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jane Usher

**Date Submitted:** 03/22/2021 11:18 AM

**Council File No:** 09-0969-S3

**Comments for Public Posting:** The recommendation of the CAO to increase the fee for a non-applicant to appeal a land use planning case, from \$89 to \$16,097, is unconscionable and unsubstantiated by relevant facts. The long-standing purpose of the non-full cost recovery fee for non-applicant appeals has been to ensure that this City's government provides project neighbors, non-profit community groups and individuals with an opportunity for administrative redress of a discretionary land use decision. This opportunity for administrative redress will be eliminated if the fee to bring such an appeal is \$16,097. The deck to obtain approval of a discretionary land use application is already stacked so heavily in favor of project applicants, who have a direct financial stake in the outcome. Is it absolutely imperative to remove the appeal tool that gives neighbors, non-profit community groups and individuals a fighting chance? The CAO report to your Committee offers no facts or study to suggest that the current \$89 appeal fee has been abused or overused by non-applicant appellants. There is no analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act of the implications for the environment from introducing a financial tool that will preclude administrative appeals by neighbors to a project. Without such relevant facts, study and analysis, the CAO-proposed fee increase is simply a grotesque overreach and abuse of authority and process.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Westwood Hills Property Owners Association  
**Date Submitted:** 03/22/2021 05:38 PM  
**Council File No:** 09-0969-S3  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Westwood Hills Property Owners Association, which represents a single-family neighborhood of 600 families, hereby files its OPPOSITION to the proposed increased of non-applicant fee from \$89 to \$16,097, for the reasons more fully stated in the attached letter.

WESTWOOD HILLS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED 1958

March 22, 2021

Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair  
Members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 0-0969-S3  
**OPPOSE** Proposed Administrative Appeal Fee Increase

Honorable Chair Harris-Dawson and PLUM Committee Members,

Westwood Hills Property Owners Association represents a single-family neighborhood of more than 600 families. We are very concerned about and **OPPOSED TO** the proposed increase of the non-applicant appeal fee from \$89 to \$16,097 as recommended by the City's Chief Administrative Officer—an unconscionable increase of 17,987% (Seventeen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven Percent)!

This is nothing more than a brazen gift to developers who wish to skirt existing laws. The exorbitant amount of the proposed appeal fee is clearly designed to prevent public involvement and objection to building projects that seek benefits beyond those available by right—ranging from the construction of a wall to a high-rise. It runs counter to the obligation of the City to allow the public to petition the government, and effectively constitutes an unconstitutional denial of due process.

Further to our position, we hereby adopt and incorporate by reference the comments submitted by John P. Given, Esq. in his letter to PLUM dated March 1, 2021.

**In conclusion, we respectfully request that the PLUM Committee REJECT this proposed fee increase.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Rohde', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Rohde  
President