



April 6, 2021

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

**Re: Proposed Administrative Appeal Fee Increase – OPPOSE
Council File 09-0969-S**

Dear Chair Harris-Dawson and PLUM Committee Members:

The Board of Directors of LARABA opposes the proposed increase of the non-applicant appeal filing fee from \$89.00 to \$16,097.00, as recommended by the CAO. The fee increase acts as an impassable barrier, choking the rights of ordinary citizens to lawful redress of government action. Worse, such an action in the midst of a global pandemic and astronomical jobless claims is indurate and soulless.

The Board also opposes the Planning Department's proposed \$158.00 fee adjustment. The current \$89.00 administrative fee is already high, such that applicants of modest means think twice about filing an appeal. Doubling the fee promotes a two-tiered system - those that can afford it, and those that cannot. That is an attack on equity, a principle the City should be promoting rather than eroding. Additionally, it is not lost on most that the CAO's proposal seems designed to make the \$158.00 fee more palatable. It is not.

Non-applicant land use appeals are the penultimate vehicle for stakeholders to challenge land use decisions detrimental to the community, and to the City as a whole. They are a check to aberrant government power, keeping the system fair, transparent, and in balance. By raising the appeal fee, and sliding it beneath the radar, our public servants chill the voices of the very people they are supposed to represent and serve.

Please reject this fee increase.

Sincerely,

Randall Miller
President, LARABA