

Communication from Public

Name: Abraham Schonwald

Date Submitted: 03/10/2021 11:16 AM

Council File No: 09-0969-S3

Comments for Public Posting: from \$89 to \$16,000 ????? This is a radical and unnecessary lead - if you want to raise the fee - why not raise it to \$99 - that seems like a more logical hike! \$16,000 is absurd!

Communication from Public

Name: Douglas Carstnes

Date Submitted: 03/10/2021 01:49 PM

Council File No: 09-0969-S3

Comments for Public Posting: The Administrative Appeal fee should not be increased to \$16,000.



Hermosa Beach
Office

Phone: (310) 798-2400

San Diego Office

Phone: (858) 999-0070

Phone: (619) 940-4522

Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter LLP

2200 Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 318
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
www.cbcearthlaw.com

Douglas Carstens

Email Address:

dpc@cbcearthlaw.com

Direct Dial:

310-798-2400 Ext.: 1

March 9, 2021

Hon. Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Planning and Land Use Committee Chair,
And All Councilmembers of the
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
c/o: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment/>

Re: **Opposition to Proposed Exorbitant Administrative Appeal
Fee Increase from \$89 to \$16,000; City File: CF No. 09-0969-
S3; City Council Planning and Land Use Committee
(PLUM) Hearing April 6, 2021**

Honorable Councilmember Members:

On behalf of the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association and the Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan, we adamantly oppose the proposed exorbitant appeal fee increase that would be imposed on the public when they are aggrieved by an administrative decision made by unelected City of Los Angeles (City) officials. This abusive fee increase was recommended on February 24, 2021 in a report by the City's Chief Administrative Officer (Rich Llewellyn), apparently with the support of the Mayor and Planning Department. This recommendation is to raise appeal fees payable by any homeowner, neighbor, or person other than a proposed project developer from the **current fee of \$89 to a new fee of \$16,000, which would be a 17,900 percent increase in the fee payable by the public.**

Such a steep 17,900 percent increase has no rational basis and would unduly interfere with the public's right to petition their government for redress of grievances. The people of the City of Los Angeles have a

Los Angeles City Councilmembers

March 9, 2021

Page 2

constitutional right to petition their government, which may not be burdened by unreasonable fees. (Cal. Const. Sec. 3 [“ (a) The people have the right to instruct their representatives, petition government for redress of grievances, and assemble freely to consult for the common good.”])

Public faith in City government is already at a low point marked by recent corruption scandals in the City of Los Angeles related to land development interests’ control and influence at various levels of City government over land use decisions. (“Los Angeles’ Ever-Expanding Corruption Case,” *Daily News*, December 3, 2020, <https://www.dailynews.com/2020/12/03/los-angeles-ever-expanding-corruption-case/>.)

This latest appeal fee proposal is an outrageous attempt to further burden public involvement in public decisionmaking and to exclude the public from decisions affecting their lives. We urge you to reject this proposed hike in public appeal fees in the strongest terms possible. We exhort you to make it clear to your staff and your constituents that your priority is promoting public participation in public decisions in a transparent process, not in imposing additional unreasonable and unnecessary burdens on the public who care enough to become involved in the operation of their government.

We ask that you notify us of all future notices related to this action, and to preserve all records including but not limited to email correspondence about this item.

Sincerely,



Douglas P. Carstens

Communication from Public

Name: Shawn Keltner; Architect,AIA,NCARB

Date Submitted: 03/10/2021 06:44 PM

Council File No: 09-0969-S3

Comments for Public Posting: As a professional practicing in the field and volunteering as chair of my neighborhood council's planning and land use committee, I find the COA's fee recommendation of \$16,097.00 for individuals other than the applicant filing an appeal is ludicrous. No individual should be burdened with such an erroneous fee. The city council should strike this specific recommendation down.