

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Andrew Thomas

**Date Submitted:** 02/08/2022 01:29 PM

**Council File No:** 18-1101

**Comments for Public Posting:** Honorable Commissioners; On behalf of the Westwood Village Improvement Association (WVIA), I am asking the Planning Commission to support CF: 18-1101 and the draft amendments proposed by the LA City Planning Department in response to Councilmember Koretz's motion to amend the Westwood Village Specific Plan. These Specific Plan amendments are crucial to the revitalization of Westwood Village. Relief from unique and burdensome regulations will help our community overcome crippling retail vacancy rates. According to Costar data, Village retail vacancy is 39.4%. This is dramatically higher than the Los Angeles retail vacancy rate of 21.3%. The WVIA supports LA City Planning's proposed amendments including provisions to eliminate dated definitions and ratios for food use, provide relief from parking requirements, and provide administrative approval of signage pursuant to existing regulations. The only additional change the WVIA is requesting is to remove the proposed limit of 5,000 square feet for eliminating parking requirements for changes of use. Currently there are vacancies in the Village over 5,000 square feet that need parking relief and there are ample available parking spaces throughout Westwood Village for visitors to our community. Since LA City Planning held its first public hearing on this item in June 2021, over 600 letters of support for the amendments have been submitted by Westwood Village stakeholders and representative organizations to City Staff and Council District 5. The WVIA urges the Planning Commission to recommend the Los Angeles City Council adopt the proposed ordinance to amend the Westwood Village Specific Plan and to also eliminate the 5,000 square foot limit for parking requirement relief. Sincerely, Andrew Thomas Executive Director, WVIA



February 8, 2022

Los Angeles City Planning Commission

RE: CF: 18-1101 – Westwood Village Specific Plan Amendments

Honorable Commissioners;

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Sincerely,

Andrew Thomas  
Executive Director, WVIA