

Communication from Public

Name: Ron Bitzer

Date Submitted: 02/20/2022 03:14 PM

Council File No: 21-1467

Comments for Public Posting: Consider shining a light on the Department of City Planning as well as the Department of Recreation and Parks in the matter of the Mayor's Directive 31, which seeks to promote new park land in park-starved neighborhoods. Contemporaneous public evidence is lacking that City departments will cooperate with City Council motions, such as CF 21-0063 passed by City Council on February 24, 2021, instructing "...RAP to report on all parcels owned by the RAP that are not deed restricted for park purposes" A year later, CF 21-0063 remains devoid of this information; the City Controller, on the other hand. Incentives for Recreation and Parks to cooperate with your proposed motion "... to identify and convert appropriate LADWP property into passive recreation and open space," CF 21-1467 include the resources of the Department of Water and Power — an agency seeking the cooperation of Recreation and Parks in the capture of stormwater. Your pending motion may endure a fate similar to the February 2021 CF 21-0063 motion — thereby providing additional support for other current and future plans for open space beyond DWP vacant land. *The Mayor's 2016 reform seeking new park land dedication, Ordinance 184,505, has failed thus far. Mayor Garcetti's and City Council's reform of the private residential developer Quimby Park Fee program (2017-2021) shows zero new park land dedication or funding used for new parks. For example, City annual Quimby fee reports do not even include a reference — even if zero — to land dedication as a legitimate fee. *City Planning routinely rejects an optional requirement that private developers dedicate land for new parks as a condition for final approval of adding non-exempt residential units and their residents to a neighborhood. For example, City Planning rejected the Recreation and Parks recommendation for a 0.49 acre neighborhood park at 500 S. Oxford St. in Korea Town, Letter of Determination, VTT Map No. 75032-CN-1A, November 9, 2017, p. 16 and Department of Recreation and Parks Commission Report 18-063. City Planning's rationale urged neighbors from this high density area to drive up to 5 miles to visit a comparable park. *Ambiguity in setting the fee payment rate for subdivision projects has led to allegations of payment rates lower than the Recreation and Parks Commission rate (VTT-82168). The City has adjusted the per unit rate upwards effective July 1st every

year since 2016. For example, should the developer of the 376 subdivision project at 11750-11750 W. Wilshire Blvd. pay a per unit rate of \$12,998.00 for fiscal year 2020 (FY of final City approval) or \$6,6244.70 for fiscal year 2017 (FY of VTT vesting)? * LA Times recently backed implementation of a City's plan, "A longtime observer of City politics once told me that nothing gets done in LA without a lawsuit or ballot measure," Kerry Cavanaugh, February 15, 2022.