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EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY 15th
General Membership
Meeting

UPCOMING COMMITTEES

Open to Executive
Level members only

JANUARY 8th
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Special Guest: Councilmember
Dennis Zine

Open to Business Advocacy
and Executive Level
members only

JANUARY 14th
ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

JANUARY 22nd
ARTS, RETAIL & HOSPITALITY
COMMITTEE



Council Recesses Before Deciding on Critical Improvements at Providence Holy Cross

It is with disappointment that we report that the Los Angeles City Council did not take up the matter of the **Providence Holy Cross** hospital expansion before its scheduled winter recess. Although nearly 200 construction jobs and 250 new health care jobs hang in the balance during these times of economic crisis, special interests have successfully halted the project in its tracks. All that is needed to move these critical jobs – and new hospital beds – forward is a simple vote by the City Council to re-state its 2007 approval of the expansion. Yet Council failed to take such an action in the two months that this matter has been in its hands and has now recessed with no resolution.

The Holy Cross expansion in Mission Hills includes the addition of up to 136 new beds and a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. With two nearby hospitals closing in the last four years, there is a critical shortage of hospital beds in the area, creating enormous pressure on Holy Cross, which now operates at 97 percent capacity every day. Capacity issues at the hospital – put to the test by the recent Metrolink disaster, where Holy Cross treated more victims than any other hospital – will direct patients to more distant trauma centers and endanger lives.

Yet, although the City has twice found that Holy Cross has satisfied all of its environmental obligations, "CARE", an entity funded by the SEIU, continues to challenge that decision as part of an organized campaign targeting the Providence hospital system. This campaign continues, despite the fact that half of Providence's 28 hospitals are unionized, and that employees at Holy Cross (where the average hourly rate is \$37), voted nearly 2:1 not to be represented by SEIU.

The Court decision is focused on City Council procedural issues that can be overcome by a simple majority vote of the Los Angeles City Council. Once Council is back in session, we will be advocating on behalf of this critical project. We ask CCA members for their support. For more information, please contact CCA's VP of Legislative Affairs, Veronica Perez Becker.

Relocation Payments Reduced for Certain Good Faith Evictions

The City Council approved a Zine/Parks motion that reduced the cost of good-faith evictions for "mom and pop" landlords.

STAFF BRIEFS

- CCA testified at the Ethics Commission regarding staff's proposed revisions to the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance (MLO). The proposed revisions would greatly increase the number of individuals who must register as lobbyists. This week the Commission continued discussing the definitions of "lobbyist" and "lobbying". CCA advocated for an exemption for technical and land use experts, and opposed the "one dollar/one contact" rule. The Commission tentatively agreed 1) to exempt contacts by technical experts when accompanied by a registered lobbyist, and that 2) five contacts per quarter should trigger registration for a lobbying organization. These recommendations are not final and the Commission will continue considering changes to the MLO at its next meeting in January. Staff Contact: Veronica Perez Becker.

- CCA testified before the City Council in opposition to an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) prohibiting all types of new offsite signage and supergraphics for up to one year. CCA also advocated for an exemption for signs located within pending or established signage supplemental use districts. We have much to lose and little to gain from this ICO, as the Planning Department has committed to crafting a comprehensive sign ordinance by late-January and the moratorium could have significant cost in terms of lost city revenues and jobs. The Council approved the ICO, but reduced its duration to three months with the possibility of one three month extension. Staff Contact: Veronica Perez Becker.

- CCA testified at the Planning & Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee in support of the proposed SB 1185 implementation ordinance to

Such evictions occur when a property owner recovers the use of a unit for themselves, their child, parent, or spouse. The relocation fees awarded to qualified tenants subject to good-faith evictions now range from \$6,810 to \$14,000. This range is a reduction from the range of relocation fees allowed previously under law – \$6,810 to \$17,080.

CCA had joined CCA members, the **California Apartment Association**, and the **Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles** in support of the motion. CCA testified that this proposal was a step forward in striking a balance between the rights of property owners and tenants. Although the reduction was not as substantial as originally proposed, the coalition was successful in broadening the definition of “mom and pop.” Previously, “mom and pop” landlords were defined as owning only four units or less and as living in one of the units. Now, a landlord can own and live in another home. The entire ordinance is due back in 30 days and will go back to committee.

City Council Expands Artists-in-Residence District

The City Council unanimously approved **Councilmember Jose Huizar's** recommendation to expand the Artists-in-Residence District, which was previously bounded by 1st St., Alameda St., 6th St., and the L.A. River. The new boundaries now include the area generally bounded by 6th St. to the north, Mill St. and Wilson St. to the west, Violet St. to the south, and the Los Angeles River to the east. The Central City North Community Plan permits conversion of existing obsolete industrial buildings within the District to joint live-work uses on a case-by-case basis. The buildings must no longer be viable for industrial use, and the conversion is subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator.

CCA supported the proposed expansion at the public hearings and workshop. The hope is that, instead of seeing long-term blight in older buildings that are no longer conducive to today's type of industrial uses, we will see a new community emerge and connect to the rest of Downtown.

extend the life of subdivision map approvals and all associated entitlements by two years. CCA emphasized the need to help move forward critical projects, which are experiencing difficulty obtaining financing in this stagnant economy. The Committee directed the City Attorney to prepare the ordinance. Staff Contact: Veronica Perez Becker.

• The City Council unanimously approved an ordinance that expands certain eviction prohibitions on foreclosed properties. Previously, these prohibitions only applied to properties under the Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO). The ordinance extends the prohibitions to non-RSO properties, including single family homes. CCA had testified in support of a temporary ordinance, in order to monitor its impact on the ability of banks to renovate and sell properties. Due, in part, to CCA's advocacy, the City added a one-year sunset provision, and will assess the economic climate in six months. Staff Contact: Veronica Perez Becker.

• CCA testified at the Central Area Planning Commission in support of a Conditional Use Permit for a restaurant proposed by CCA Member Alliance Commercial Partners. The permit would allow on-site consumption of alcoholic beverages and live entertainment. The restaurant will provide Downtown residents and visitors with a new late-night dining option, promoting a 24/7 environment. Staff Contact: Tracey Chavira.

• CCA wrote a letter in support of the Sunrise Powerlink, a new power transmission line proposed by Sempra Energy's San Diego Gas & Electric. The project would improve energy reliability in Southern California's power grid and help ensure the lights stay on in our homes and businesses. By connecting California to abundant sources of green energy – solar, wind, and geothermal power – the transmission line will also help the state meet its clean energy goals. Staff Contact: Tracey

Chavira.

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