

JULY 25, 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CCA Continues to Meet With City Leaders to Oppose City Planning Commission Changes to Housing Element

Carol Schatz Addresses Board of Governors at City Club

Metro Board Approves Half-Cent Sales Tax Increase for November Ballot

Staff Briefs

EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 18th
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

UPCOMING COMMITTEES

Open to Executive Level members only

AUGUST 11th
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT DODGER STADIUM

Open to Business Advocacy and Executive Level members only

JULY 30th
HOUSING, LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

JULY 31st
ARTS, RETAIL & HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 13th
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING: HOUSING, LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE



Carol Schatz speaking at the Board of Governors Member mixer at City Club.

CCA Continues to Meet With City Leaders to Oppose City Planning Commission Changes to Housing Element

CCA's President & CEO Carol Schatz and CCA's VP of Legislative & Legal Affairs Veronica Perez Becker held a series of meetings with Councilmember Jan Perry, Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Councilmember Ed Reyes, Councilmember Herb Wesson, Councilmember Jose Huizar, Councilmember Bernard Parks and the staff of Councilmember Greig Smith to oppose surprise amendments to the May 2008 draft of the Housing Element recently approved by the City Planning Commission (CPC) – with little notice and no debate

Some of the onerous policies in the CPC amendments include: 1) amending the TFAR ordinance to require that all or a majority of the public benefit fee be used for the creation of affordable housing within 3 miles of Downtown; 2) amending the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance to require an affordable housing component; 3) limiting and discouraging the demolition and conversion of rental housing; and other affordable housing mandates.

The CPC's surprise action ran counter to an agreement reached by Housing Element Task Force members who assisted in developing the May 2008 draft. Many of these issues had been fully debated by a diverse set of stakeholders through a multi-year, legislative process during which the Task Force convened. CCA advocated that these policies should be individually analyzed on an area-by-area basis, such as in the Community Plan update process. The amendments run counter to other important City goals and policies, and will result in hindering the City's housing production efforts. In addition, the Environmental Clearance for the Housing Element does not include a review of the substantive amendments made by the CPC and is therefore inadequate and opens the City up to considerable litigation risk.

This issue is scheduled to be heard by a joint meeting of City Council's Housing, Community & Economic Development

STAFF BRIEFS

- CCA participated in a working group organized by the Office of Historic Resources to review proposed amendments to the Cultural Heritage Ordinance. CCA expressed concern that the proposed revisions would subject thousands of additional buildings to the harsh demolition standard - without any city review and without any notice to the property owner. CCA also took issue with the demolition standard itself, arguing that a "no economically viable use" test was unduly strict. Staff Contact: Anh Nguyen.

- The City Council unanimously approved Councilmember Reyes' motion to ban polystyrene food containers in city-owned facilities and city-sponsored events beginning July 1, 2009 and plastic bags citywide by July 1, 2010. The ban will only go into effect if the state fails to impose a 25-cent fee on every shopper who requests plastic bags. After 2010, consumers must use a canvas bag or pay 25 cents for a paper, compostable, or biodegradable bag. CCA had previously sent a letter in opposition to this ban arguing that since polystyrene is already recyclable in the City's blue bins, the focus should be on consumer education and outreach. Staff Contact: Tracey Chavira.

- CCA's Los Angeles County Homeless Prevention Initiative Subcommittee met this week to discuss community concerns surrounding the placement of Project 50 housing and services on Main Street. The Subcommittee plans to reconvene in the coming weeks to design an action plan to address immediate community concerns and develop a streamlined process for community input. Staff Contact: Tracey Chavira.

(HCED) and Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committees at **Los Angeles City Hall, Room 350, at 2:00pm on Tuesday, July 29th**. It is extremely important that a diverse group of members show up to oppose the recent CPC amendments to the Housing Element. Therefore, we need your support and testimony at the hearing and can provide talking points upon request. If you cannot make it, we urge you to contact the council offices to express your opposition to the CPC amendments. Please contact CCA's Vice President of Legislative & Legal Affairs, Veronica Perez Becker, at 213-624-1213 if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Carol Schatz Addresses Board of Governors at City Club

This week, **CCA's President & CEO Carol Schatz** was the honorary speaker at a Board of Governors Members mixer, held at the City Club. Widely regarded as a leading figure in the revitalization of Downtown, Ms. Schatz's remarks focused on "The New Downtown Los Angeles," and the prosperity our city center has enjoyed over the last decade. With a burgeoning population and increasing opportunities for culture and entertainment, Downtown has transformed into a vibrant, thriving community.

Schatz shared her well-substantiated optimism about the future of Downtown Los Angeles. While the real estate market for the Southern California region has slowed, Downtown L.A. has maintained its value and has only seen a slight decline in home prices compared to neighboring cities like Santa Monica and Pasadena. The confluence of catalytic projects, such as the **Staples Center, L.A. LIVE, Walt Disney Concert Hall**, and the **Grand**, as well as ongoing transportation infrastructure investment, strong demand in both the residential and office markets, and advocacy by Central City Association and the Downtown Center Business Improvement District, provide a foundation for Downtown's continued renaissance.

Metro Board Approves Half-Cent Sales Tax Increase for November Ballot

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board voted to approve a half-cent countywide sales tax increase to be placed on the November 2008 ballot. The new sales tax, boosting the current rate from 8.25% to 8.75%, is estimated to raise \$40 billion over the next 30 years, and proceeds will be used to finance road improvements and mass transit projects.

Priority funding will be determined by passage of Metro's 2008 Draft Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which forecasts the county's transportation needs for the next 20-25 years. Earmarked priority projects include the Regional Connector, the Subway to the Sea, the Metro Green Line extension to LAX, and the extension of the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley. CCA testified at a number of Metro's Board meetings to support priority funding for Downtown's most-needed transit projects.

CONTACT US

Central City Association

**626 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90017**

Phone

213.624.1213

Facsimile

213.624.0858

Website

www.ccala.org

You are on this email list because you are a member of the Central City Association (CCA) or because you have a business relationship with CCA.

If you would prefer not to receive emails from CCA, please reply with "unsubscribe" in the subject area or call Faith Otis at (213) 624-1213.

0
1
0
0
0
0