

June 27, 2008

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EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY 15th
CHIEFS OF STAFF OF LOS ANGELES ELECTED OFFICIALS RECEPTION
at Takami Restaurant and Elevate Lounge

UPCOMING COMMITTEES

Open to Executive Level members only

JULY 10th
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Special Guest: Gene Block, UCLA Chancellor

Open to Executive and Business Advocacy Level members only

JULY 16th
HOUSING, LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



From Left to Right: Garrison Smith, LA County, CEO; Committee Vice Chair Alex Moradi, ICO Development; Commander David Doan, LAPD; and Committee Chair Orlando Ward, Midnight Mission at CCA's Public Safety, Health & Homelessness Committee Meeting.

CPC Makes Onerous Changes to Draft Housing Element

Despite lobbying efforts by CCA and others in the business community, the City Planning Commission (CPC) unanimously voted yesterday to amend the draft Housing Element to include several onerous policies. California State law requires that cities adopt a Housing Element as a part of their General Plan. Once adopted, this Housing Element will remain in effect until 2014. The CPC's changes to the Housing Element include, among other things, the following:

- Calling for the adoption of a mixed-income housing ordinance;
- Calling to amend the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance to require an affordable housing set-aside;
- Calling to amend the Transfer of Floor Area Rights (TFAR) Ordinance to require that all or the majority of the public benefit payment be used for the creation of affordable housing;
- Discouraging apartment demolitions and conversions;
- Strengthening Section 12.95.2(F)(6), of the Municipal Code, which prohibits condominium conversions when the vacancy rate in a planning area is below five percent;
- In addition, the CPC asked Planning Department staff to make recommendations on how the CPC can require public benefits for discretionary approvals.

It is our understanding that this item will be heard before a joint meeting of City Council's Housing, Community & Economic Development (HCED) Committee and Planning & Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee in mid-July. We are very concerned about the implications of such changes and we will be building a coalition of stakeholders, meeting with City Councilmembers, writing letters and testifying in opposition to these changes in the coming weeks. If you would like additional information, please contact Veronica Perez Becker, Vice President of Legislative & Legal Affairs, at

STAFF BRIEFS

• CCA testified at the Metro Board meeting in support of adding a public-private partnership section to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to accommodate a modern streetcar system for Downtown Los Angeles, and to seek clarification on the expenditure plan for the proposed half-cent sales tax measure. The Board voted to postpone the LRTP until November and will vote on whether to place the sales tax measure on the November ballot on July 24th. Staff Contact: Tracey Chavira

• CCA testified in support of CCA Executive member Plains All American Pipeline's Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Pier 400, Berth 408 petroleum project. This project will be a positive addition to the Port of Los Angeles and addresses the critical energy infrastructure needs of the region. Public comment for the Draft EIR closes on July 29th. Staff Contact: Tracey Chavira

• Carol Schatz, CCA's President & CEO, met with the Office of Councilmember Jose Huizar and key Downtown property owners to discuss a funding strategy for a modern streetcar system for Downtown Los Angeles. The group is working closely with CCA member Jim Atkins, who was instrumental in developing a streetcar in Portland's Pearl District. Staff Contact: Tracey Chavira

• CCA participated in a working group organized by the Office of Historic Resources to review proposed amendments to the Cultural Heritage Ordinance. This ordinance, originally approved in 1962, created procedures for the designation and protection of significant buildings and sites. Proposed changes include modifying the

CCA Hosts County Officials for Update on Efforts to Fight Homelessness

CCA's Public Safety, Health & Homelessness Committee was pleased to welcome **Garrison Smith** of the **Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office** for an update on the County's Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI) and Project 50. The HPI moves toward the regionalization of services for the homeless. Project 50 aims to remove the 50 most vulnerable homeless individuals from the street and has so far removed 32 chronically homeless people from Skid Row. Although CCA supports the purpose of Project 50, members voiced concerns over the placement – with little to no public input – of homeless services on street-level storefronts on Main Street. The homeless services center, which will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., is incongruous with the neighborhood, which is transitioning into a burgeoning residential and commercial area. CCA has formed a working group to foster a cooperative working relationship between County officials, neighborhood residents, and business owners along Main Street to create a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood for all residents.

LAPD Commander David Doan also provided an update to the Committee on the successes and challenges that LAPD faces within the Central District. LAPD is currently reviewing possible district reorganization to maximize police deployments and reduce the impact of special events on community policing. Commander Doan expressed LAPD's commitment to ensuring that Downtown remains a safe center for business and entertainment activity. CCA will continue to work closely with LAPD to improve the safety of Downtown.

CCA's Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Discusses High-Speed Rail and Downtown Mobility

CCA's Transportation & Infrastructure Committee welcomed representatives from the California High Speed-Rail Authority to discuss a proposed \$40 billion, 800-mile statewide system of high-speed trains. The system would link major cities in California and move people and goods at speeds of up to 220 mph. The project will be funded through a combination of state, federal, and private investment. A \$9.95 billion bond measure will appear on California's November 2008 ballot. CCA will continue to closely follow the development of the high-speed rail.

The Committee also welcomed representatives from the Downtown Los Angeles Freeway Study to discuss continued efforts to increase mobility to Downtown.

designation criteria and adding a "Certificate of Appropriateness" review for all designated historic resources. Staff Contact: Anh Nguyen

• **CCA's Downtown Design Guidelines Subcommittee met with Emily Gabel-Luddy and the City's Urban Design Studio this week to submit comments to the October 2007 draft of the Downtown Design Guidelines. The subcommittee's recommendations focused on incorporating more flexibility into the guidelines to allow for creative design types. Staff Contact: Anh Nguyen**

CCA IN THE NEWS

Commenting on the recent Tribune Co. announcement to put the Los Angeles Times' downtown building up for sale, Carol Schatz said [over the last decade], "property values [in downtown] have at least doubled." Schatz added, "This is not a shocker. The only thing that is important to me is that The Times stays downtown." June 27, 2008. Los Angeles Times, "Much Has Changed Around the Los Angeles Times Building," by Cara Mia DiMassa.

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