

JUNE 26, 2009

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Legislative Alert: City Council to Vote on Planning Department Recommendations to Increase New Application Filing Fees

Staff Briefs

EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY 15

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS RECEPTION

J Restaurant & Lounge

UPCOMING COMMITTEES

Open to Executive Level Members Only

JULY 9

11:45 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Special Guest: Councilmember Jose Huizar



Legislative Alert: City Council to Vote on Planning Department Recommendations to Increase New Application Filing Fees

On Tuesday, June 30, 2009, the City Council will vote on a set of Planning Department recommendations that would drastically increase many new application filing fees in order to achieve full-cost recovery for case processing services. These increases, which are as much as 1,000 percent in some cases, would apply to applications for such things as conditional use permits and density bonuses. While some reasonable fee increases could be supportable, many of the items in the recommendations would deter investment in Los Angeles. Furthermore, the proposed fees are well in excess of surrounding jurisdictions, which already enjoy the benefit of hosting sales tax-generating businesses patronized by nearby residents of Los Angeles.

CCA is the business leader on this issue, and we will be asking the City Council to put accountability measures into place to ensure that development application processing times are significantly improved if fees are increased. We are facing an extremely difficult economic climate and some of the more significant fee increases should be reconsidered so that they do not impact our ability to attract and retain businesses and

STAFF BRIEFS

• CCA met with Deputy Planning Director Vince Bertoni and Office of Historic Resources Manager Ken Bernstein to discuss ongoing concerns with the newest draft of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance. CCA will continue advocating for more reasonable changes to the ordinance to prevent undue burden on property owners. This issue is expected to be heard before the City Planning Commission on July 9. Staff contact: CCA Senior Director of Legislative & Legal Affairs, Anh Nguyen.

• CCA President & CEO Carol Schatz joined Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Councilmember Jose Huizar and others to officially name the intersection of Seventh and Broadway streets "Ezat Delijani Square." Ezat Delijani is the owner of several historic theaters on Broadway, and he was honored with CCA's "Heart of the City Award" at our 15th Annual Treasures of Los Angeles awards luncheon for his tremendous dedication to Los Angeles.

IN THE NEWS

"This is absolutely the

Open to Executive and
Business
Advocacy Members Only

JULY 15
8:00 a.m.
Joint Housing, Land Use &
Development and
Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
Special Guest:
Assemblymember Bob
Blumenfield

investment.

This week, CCA's Vice President of Legislative & Legal Affairs, Veronica Perez Becker, met with the offices of **Councilmembers Alarcon, Cardenas, Greuel, Hahn, Parks, Reyes, Rosendahl, Smith, and Wesson** to advocate in favor of more sensible changes to the Planning Department's fee recommendations. The Planning Department has been very responsive and Planning Director **Gail Goldberg** has agreed to meet with us in the hopes of forging a compromise in advance of Tuesday's vote.

We need your help to ensure that the City Council adopts a workable ordinance that will not harm businesses in this troubled economy. Please consider sending a letter to the City Council and appearing to testify at the June 30 hearing. For more information, or for a copy of the most recent staff report on the matter, please contact **CCA Vice President of Legislative & Legal Affairs, Veronica Perez Becker**.

We need your support at this hearing, which will take place on:

Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, Room 350
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

wrong time to proceed with this mandate,' said Carol Schatz, chief executive of the Central City Association, which represents downtown businesses and development companies. 'We should be doing everything we can to incentivize development, not put burdens on developers.' June 22, *Los Angeles Business Journal*, "Developers Brace For Housing Fight" by Howard Fine on the City's proposed affordable housing policy.

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