



LEGISLATIVE ALERT

COUNCIL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER MEASURE INCREASING NUMBER OF DOWNTOWN FIRE INSPECTORS

The number of Downtown residential projects has increased dramatically over the past several years. The increase has overburdened City departments that are crucial to the development process. As more projects are planned, delays are becoming longer and more expensive for developers. Delays are especially apparent with the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) life-safety inspection, required before receiving a Certificate of Occupancy (COO).

Currently there is only one LAFD inspector, of the six citywide, qualified to certify high rise and adaptive reuse projects. Most, if not all Downtown projects, fall into this category. With 30 adaptive reuse projects under construction and another 40 in the pipeline – a significant backlog is already occurring.

CCA, with the assistance of Forest City Development, asked Council Member Jan Perry to introduce a motion requesting the City to: (1) authorize the temporary hire of retired LAFD inspectors to immediately address the inspection backlog; and (2) create an LAFD Enterprise Fund with Downtown inspection revenue. This revenue will be used to hire new qualified inspectors. Enterprise Funds can be created when City departments want to ensure funds raised within their Departments go to a specific purpose and not towards General Fund use.

Council Member Perry introduced the motion in mid-March and it is scheduled for hearing in the City Council Public Safety Committee on April 10th. Council Member Perry has requested a strong showing from the development community to ensure the Committee approves the proposal without the addition of any harmful amendments. We need your support at this hearing. The hearing will take place:

**Monday, April 10, 2006
10:00 AM
Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1010**

Attached is a copy of the motion and the agenda (Item #5). If you have any questions or would like more information on this issue, please contact CCA's Legislative Analyst, Catherine Leland, at 213-624-1213 or by email at cleland@ccla.org.


MOTION PERSONNEL
PUBLIC SAFETY

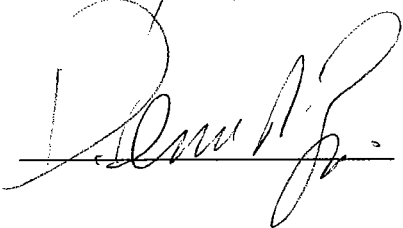
The number of residential projects in Downtown Los Angeles has grown dramatically over the last five years. The increases in residential, mixed-use and adaptive reuse developments, many of which are high-rise in nature, require a number of inspections, including a specialized fire, life-safety inspection, which must be completed by the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy .

The current Fire Department staffing for these critical inspections is limited to six (6) Fire Inspectors citywide and one (1) qualified LAFD inspector assigned to citywide adaptive reuse inspections and some new high-rise inspections specifically in downtown.

Given the number of residential projects in the downtown area coming on line in the next year, the inspections by LAFD can only get significantly backlogged, if they are to be performed properly. Such backlogs will create significant delay in the completion of projects. Delay of these projects creates a negative economic impact on the City, delaying the construction of much-needed housing.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CAO and CLA with the assistance of the Fire Department (LAFD), City Attorney and Personnel Department, be directed to present within 30 days a revenue neutral program to immediately address the personnel deficit and backlog of LAFD inspections, consisting of each of the following elements: (1) authorizing the temporary hire of retired inspectors pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Los Angeles City Charter; (2) creation of an Enterprise Fund to capture and protect service fees for LAFD inspections of residential projects in the downtown area; (3) resolutions to authorize and increase the numbers of LAFD inspectors for the downtown residential inspection program on a permanent basis, and (4) procedures and applicable rules to require that all costs of the downtown, residential LAFD inspections be paid from the Enterprise Fund.

PRESENTED BY: 
JAN C. PERRY
Councilwoman, 9th District

SECONDED BY: 

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06-0492

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2006

ROOM 1010, CITY HALL - 10:00 AM
200 NORTH SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

MEMBERS: COUNCILMEMBER JACK WEISS, CHAIR
COUNCILMEMBER GREIG SMITH
COUNCILMEMBER BERNARD C. PARKS
COUNCILMEMBER DENNIS P. ZINE
COUNCILMEMBER ED P. REYES

(Alan Alietti - Legislative Assistant - 213-978-1071 or Alan.Alietti@lacity.org)

Note: For information regarding the Committee and its operations, please contact the Committee Legislative Assistant at the phone number and/or email address listed above. The Legislative Assistant may answer questions and provide materials and notice of matters scheduled before the City Council. Assistive listening devices are available at the meeting. Upon 72-hour advance notice, other accommodations, such as sign language interpretation and translation services, will be provided. Contact the Legislative Assistant listed above for the needed services. TDD is available at (213) 978-1055.

FILE NO.

SUBJECT

06-0429	(1) Communication from the Board of Police Commissioners relative to the sole source purchase of audio digital recording equipment. Fiscal Impact Statement submitted: No DISPOSITION _____
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06-0285	(3) Communication from the Mayor and Resolution relative to the acceptance of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Program grant for fiscal year 2006-07. Fiscal Impact Statement submitted: No DISPOSITION _____
05-2624	(4) Communication from the Board of Police Commissioners relative to renaming the Southwest Community Police Station to the Homer F. Broome Jr. - Southwest Community Police Station. Fiscal Impact Statement submitted: No DISPOSITION _____

FILE NO.

SUBJECT

06-0492

(5)

Motion (Perry - Zine) relative to addressing the City's need for additional Fire Inspectors. (Also referred to the Personnel Committee for consideration)

DISPOSITION _____

04-1948

(6)

Communications from the Los Angeles Fire Department and the Los Angeles Housing Department and Motion (Miscikowski - Reyes) relative to ensuring that "granny flats" and/or "companion units" comply with the City's habitability and public safety codes. (Also referred to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee)

Fiscal Impact Statement submitted: No

DISPOSITION _____

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC INTEREST
WITHIN THIS COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

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