

APR 17 2009

09-0871

MOTION

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

The City Charter requires that an Early Notification System (ENS) be established to provide the public with notice, about decisions that are about to be made by the City Council, its committees, as well as City boards and commissions so that the public has a reasonable opportunity to provide input before decisions are made. The ENS provides a means through which people can have the agendas of City Council and City commission meetings delivered via e-mail. This system has been developed and expanded over the last six years.

More recently, the Office of the City Clerk enhanced the system to allow the public to view the underlying documents online, such as staff reports, which provide further information about the agenda item, in addition to a vote tally on each matter. These actions have placed Los Angeles at the forefront of promoting public participation in government and transparency. But there is still much more that should be accomplished.

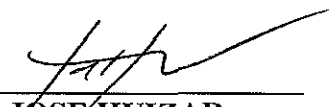
For several years, the Planning Department has provided L.A. City Planning Early Notification Early Notification Report to designated persons from each established Neighborhood Council with cases arranged by group name. This has allowed communities to better educate and involve themselves in their local government. Many Neighborhood Councils have become very active and provide critical input on local and citywide planning decisions.

Business Improvements Districts (BIDs) are non-profit organizations that provide privately-funded maintenance to various business districts throughout the City. Many BIDs also fund security, marketing and public improvement projects in their communities. BIDs are enabled under state law, and are considered quasi-public entities because they are funded by a special assessment district. They are subject to the Brown Act, and therefore many of the same good government requirements that our Neighborhood Councils must adhere to.

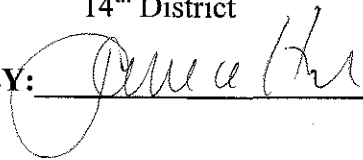
The City Clerk provides oversight of the BIDs, which are required to execute contracts with the City and comply with all requirements, including the issuance of multiple annual reports and a budget. There are 37 currently established districts providing privately-funded services that benefit the public at large. BIDs are unique, quasi-public, non-profit, public benefit entities with City oversight, and their actions and activities are open to the public.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request that the Planning Department work with the City Clerk and Information Technology Department to report back in 30 days on the steps necessary to provide a special version of the L.A. City Planning Early Notification Report to all of the established Business Improvement Districts in the City of Los Angeles which categorizes planning cases by BID area, where applicable, in order to allow these groups to provide more timely input on City policies, programs and projects that directly affect them.

PRESENTED BY:


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember
14th District

SECONDED BY:



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