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**GREATER GRIFFITH
PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL**

**GREATER GRIFFITH PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
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February 17, 2010

William Roschen
President
City Planning Commission
Room 272
City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

S. Gail Goldberg
Director of City Planning
Room 525
City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Hollywood Community Plan
Commission Special Meeting
Held January 21, 2010

Dear Mr. Roschen and Ms. Goldberg:

The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council ("GGPNC") has been working on the proposed revision of the Hollywood Community Plan for over five years. We have given comments to the staff of the Planning Department from time to time; our first letter of comment is dated May 4, 2005. In addition, we have participated with staff in meetings both sponsored by the department and

by GGPNC regarding the development of this proposed revision. Our serious interest in this project is well known to the staff and is well documented.

A properly designed and conceived community plan is critical to our stakeholders, and we are in the midst of intensive work regarding the current partial draft of the plan. We await receipt of the balance of the draft plan and the draft environmental impact report.

Therefore, we were, mildly put, very disconcerted to learn that the commission and staff, including the most senior member of the department, held a meeting to devote a significant amount of time (2 hours) to this project without notice to us or to the public at large. The occurrence of this meeting in this manner was considered by the GGPNC Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee and by the GGPNC board at their duly noticed meetings on February 10 and 16, 2010, respectively.

Whether the January 21 meeting was consistent with the letter of the Brown Act we leave to others.

However, we believe that the failure to publish notice on the website consistent with the usual practice for commission meetings and the apparent failure to record the meeting and make that recording available to the public are not consistent with the spirit of the Brown Act nor with the transparency of city government which has been espoused by the Mayor and widely assumed to prevail by the citizens.

An opportunity for us and other members of the public to attend this meeting would have afforded us valuable insight into the thinking of the commission and the department and would have allowed us to focus our attention more directly on issues raised by the proposed plan.

We fear this apparently intentional exclusion of neighborhood councils and the stakeholders of the community directly affected by this plan bodes ill for the cooperation which should exist between the citizens and their city employees and commission members.

We ask that you:

1. Cause the staff to prepare a complete summary of the meeting and to publish the same promptly for full review by the citizens of Los Angeles;
2. Publicly adopt a policy of strict compliance with the notice requirements of the Brown Act for all meetings, regardless of how they are characterized, and strictly follow that policy;
3. Give each neighborhood council in an area subject to discussion of a community plan or other major matter **actual notice** directed to the president and to the person designated to receive planning notices of each

neighborhood council, such notice to be by mail and by email as far in advance of the meeting as possible; and

4. Post on the department's website all documents to be considered at each meeting contemporaneously with those documents being distributed to members of the commission.

Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council will appreciate your prompt attention to this matter of great concern to our stakeholders and to other stakeholders affected by the Hollywood Community Plan.

We ask that Mr. Williams send a copy of this letter to each member of the City Planning Commission.

Very truly yours,

Charley Mims, President



By Kenneth E. Owen

Chair, Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee

Cc: The Hon. Antonio Villaraigosa
The Hon. Ed Reyes
The Hon. Jose Huizar
The Hon. Paul Krekorian
The Hon. Eric Garcetti
The Hon. Tom LaBonge
James Williams