



R-30

Date: December 5, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Rae Gabelich, Eighth District *R.G.*

Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Removal of fees for Third Party Appeals of Planning Commission decisions to City Council

During the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget, the City Council approved a schedule of fees and charges for a number of City departments, as part of the Council's stated policy goal of achieving cost recovery for city services.

As part of the Department of Planning and Building's new schedule of fees and charges, any third party, being any party other than the applicant, who wants to appeal a decision of the Planning Commission to the City Council must pay a fee of \$129.

I am concerned that this fee will unfairly limit many residents of Long Beach from having the opportunity to have their concerns heard by their elected representatives.

According to City staff, the full cost for staff time to process an appeal to the City Council can be close to \$2,500. However, it is important for government to remain accessible to all of its residents. There are only a small number of projects that are appealed by third parties to the Council each year, so the fiscal impact to the City for removing the fee would be minimal.

Therefore, I would recommend revising the schedule of fees and charges to remove the fee charged by the Planning and Building Department for appeals by a third party to the City Council.

Suggested Action:

Request the City Attorney to prepare a resolution revising the schedule of fees and charges to remove the fee charged by the Planning and Building Department for Appeals by a Third Party to the City Council.