

R-17 CORRESPONDENCE – Laurie Angel

From: "Laurie C. Angel" <lcangel@charter.net>
Date: October 21, 2014 at 7:47:47 AM PDT
To: Councilmember Lena Gonzalez <district1@longbeach.gov>, Councilmember Suja Lowenthal <district2@longbeach.gov>, Councilmember Suzie Price <district3@longbeach.gov>, "Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell" <district4@longbeach.gov>, Councilmember Stacy Mungo <district5@longbeach.gov>, Councilmember Dee Andrews <district6@longbeach.gov>, Councilmember Roberto Uranga <district7@longbeach.gov>, Councilmember Al Austin <district8@longbeach.gov>, Councilmember Rex Richardson <district9@longbeach.gov>, Mayor Robert Garcia <mayor@longbeach.gov>
Cc: Larry Herrera <larry.herrera@longbeach.gov>, Amy Bodek <amy.bodek@longbeach.gov>, Annie Greenfeld <shorti2448@gmail.com>, Jane Kelleher <jane@savonsigns.com>
Subject: City Council Agenda - Item 17 - Planning Commission Appointments
Reply-To: lcangel@charter.net

Mr. Herrera,

Please include these comments in the public record and make sure that each member of the City Council and the Mayor are given a copy for today's council meeting at 7pm.

Dear Council Members and Mayr

The importance of the appointments to the Planning Commission, is critical now more than ever. With 259 parcels formerly owned by the redevelopment agency in underrepresented areas, the eventual plans for most of them will come before this planning commission. What may be approved - the quality, features, uses and impact, will be the legacy of this planning commission and city council. The areas that have these parcels need the most thoughtful and sensitive representation now

From my prior e-mail

I have been hearing some real concerns about the mayor's appointments to the planning commission from a variety of constituents. I personally do not know any of the folks that the Mayor is wanting to appoint. They may have some ties to the city beyond their careers and previous/current appointments, however, of great concern is the loss of neighborhood and community representation, particularly in light of the fact:

- 1) it took several years to accomplish some thoughtful representation on the Planning Commission, but eventually the three active, former redevelopment project areas were given an appointed representative in areas that were typically never represented fairly. In the past, adverse land use concerns were never fairly vetted nor considered when it came to these areas and today we still must deal with the consequences of those decisions.
- 2) that plans to build a large rail transfer station directly adjacent to a neighborhood are in direct and proven conflict with the City of Long Beach and the LBUSD school board's lawsuit against the project. In addition, this project is being promoted by the City of Los Angeles, as a result several of these

appointments appear to be in direct conflict with the direction the city has already committed to. This project is very contentious and would have a severe impact on neighborhoods in the westside.

a) Michael Logrand is the current Director of Planning for the City of Los Angeles Planning Department. The City of Los Angeles has a vested interest in the proposed rail project on the westside of Long Beach. Also, among the long range plans for the City of Los Angeles are placing both ports under the control of the City of Los Angeles and eliminating Long Beach's stake in same. This is not a minor consideration given the potential outcome of decisions that could directly and adversely impact Long Beach and benefit Los Angeles. Who will be representing the communities and city's interests?

b) Andy Perez is currently employed in the public affairs bureau of Union Pacific Railroad, as Director of Port Affairs for Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland and San Francisco. He represents the interests of the Railroads relative to the ports. Consider where the loyalties of an employee of the railroads would lie. Who will be representing the community?

c) Jane Templin is the Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 11. The interest in good paying jobs is important and admirable but this must be carefully and thoughtfully balanced when adverse or severe environmental impacts, and quality of life to neighborhoods may occur. Areal and important balance must be struck. Who will be representing the community impacted by the rail station and other such projects?

d) Erick Verduzco-Vega is the president and CEO of the Latino Chamber of Commerce, and the South Bay Latino Community Development Corporation. Not sure of his ties nor interest in quality of life issues in impacted areas of Long Beach.

Please thoughtfully evaluate if the community's interests, including under represented communities, and children would be fairly represented, considered and protected within the City of Long Beach along with environmental justice issues and concerns.

These appointments require the long view and those with a sincere interest in making Long Beach, it's businesses and neighborhoods the absolute best they can be.

Please give this your utmost thoughtful consideration for the quality of life in our neighborhoods and businesses,

Laurie Angel from Uptown,

formerly Chair of the North Long Beach Project Area Committee