



R-21

Date: February 13, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Councilmember Rae Gabelich, Chair, Economic Development and Finance Committee

Subject: **RECOMMENDATION TO DISCUSS REVISING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES TO REMOVE THE FEE CHARGED FOR THIRD PARTY APPEALS BY THE PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT.**

The Economic Development and Finance Committee, at its meeting held February 6, 2007, considered communications relative to the above subject.

It is the recommendation of the Economic Development and Finance Committee to the City Council that the fee of \$129 charged for third party appeals by the Planning and Building Department is reduced to \$50, be received and adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilmember Rae Gabelich, Chair

Prepared by:
Gloria Harper



R-30

Date: December 5, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Rae Gabelich, Eighth District *RG*

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.

APPEALS

<u>City</u>	<u>Applicant Appeal Fee</u>	<u>3rd Party Fee</u>
Anaheim	\$2300	\$350
Glendale	\$550	Same
Huntington Beach	\$1541 if SF Homeowner \$2379 others	Same
Long Beach	\$2503	\$129
Los Angeles	85% of permit filing fee	\$74.00
Pasadena	\$1,318	Non-profits, 50% of fee
Riverside	\$1,078	Same
San Diego	\$100	No charge to Community planning groups
Santa Ana	\$1700-\$2120	Same
Santa Monica	\$350	Same

Prior to November 13, 2006 (the date the new Long Beach fees went into effect) the appeal fee was \$1,200 for all appeals. No fees were charged to anyone appealing a project approval. Appeal fees only applied to appeals against project denials or against conditions of approval.