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Date: 06/18/2013 06:44AM  
Subject: Moratorium, SEADIP proposal on tonight's agenda  
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June 18, 2013

Dear Councilmembers

I will not be able to attend this evening's meeting but I would like to put forth my concerns for your consideration and the record.

I would like to say Thank You for reconsidering what is appropriate in the southeast area of Long Beach with regard to zoning and development. I would also like to preface my statements by saying that while I speak for many of our 400+ residential homes, I do not speak for all of them. Thirty years ago we thought we had a vision for this side of the City, with height and density limits, but I can see as the availability of land adjacent to the water diminishes, the values rise and a clash of the haves & the have nots is sure to occur. That is precisely why the Coastal Act was enacted by the PEOPLE of the state to ensure that our precious resources are available to all.

At the time, for its time, SEADIP was a novel approach. Balance land use in Long Beach between the needs of developers and the needs of the citizens. That is why the approach developed in the 70's worked. We were mandated to come to an agreement as to what should go where, what should we protect and what is best for the City. As a participant and land-use chair of the Local Coastal Development Plan, trust me getting to agreement was often a painful experience-but it worked and so, I would like to share with you some helpful hints as you go forward on this task. It can be done and all stakeholders will have a buy-in--- because they either accept the conditions of participating or they don't. There will be no "my way or the highway".

First and foremost, you must declare a moratorium regarding any new construction in this area. We have learned from prior attempts to develop this area, that there is always some project that is laying around waiting for a signal to "get in" under the gun. That includes projects like "Auto Nation" that now has been tabled, but not withdrawn, or the pumpkin patch, which wanted to fund the SEADIP planning process (hmmmm!), or second & PCH, which still has Mr. Radikovitch involved and surprise--he is also involved with the new "supposed" Consulting Firm....Wow, he won't live in this City but he sure wants likes to play builder here, like our downtown garage that faces the Ocean. Yes Virginia, there is an ocean out there...while the courthouse is still here, go up to the top floor and get a glimpse of it. That's what we get for allowing "high rises in downtown"--

I love Chris Matthews statement about Central Park in New York City:  
"Wow, just think if there had not been some forward looking

Councilpersons who recognized that Central Park should be kept pristine and an island of serenity on this densely populated island, just imagine how developers would have built every inch of the Borough". That is what I believe we need now. We cannot allow developers and the promise of more taxes, to desecrate the few acres left that are not developed. Let the people decide!

SUGGESTIONS:

The committee in order to meet the conditions of the Coastal Act must be balanced. Therefore, it is imperative that membership be limited to members or stakeholders have a position which is clearly defined and represents a variety of concerns, particularly those that live and work in this area on a daily basis.

The committee MUST be headed by persons who know the issues and live in the area. The Committee members should represent the stakeholders in this city and should meet regularly, be publicly noticed and should always be situated in the SEADIP area, so that all participants have the ability to view the area and it is easily accessed by all. . Plenty of access and plenty of parking.

While all members of the Public should be allowed to be there (Open Meeting Act) ...their presence should however not allow them to disrupt the process.

The SEADIP area should be divided up into specific areas with some overriding height and density limits. Therefore, before the task begins, you will need to address the character and content of the area. Then each area should be addressed separately. Perhaps you could consider rotating some members in and out of the committee, giving a better perspective of the issues addressed from those that live and/or work adjacent to the area.

Another issue to be addressed is what will the City's role in the process be? For sure they will need to be open and express their wishes before all of this begins. After all, most already distrust the City staff and the City Council so it is imperative they deal all their cards face-up. The City will have an important role anyhow for they are the history, background and zoning administrators who come to the table with knowledge to share.

Lastly, I would share with you that as a former member of the LCP, I have no desire to sit as a member of this committee. I already did my penance! I would suggest however, that you allow our Homeowner's Association the privilege of selecting a representative since we are certainly a stakeholder in this endeavor.

Given all the development will ultimately impact us whether on 2nd & PCH, or Studebaker & 2nd, or the entrance to the freeway (7th Street where literally thousands of cars traverse our streets) we shall be probably be more impacted than any other neighborhood. We have planes flying over our heads (oil, lead) we live adjacent to 3 freeways, we are impacted by the power plant that has had a lifetime of toxic materials spewing, we have expansion at the VA, anticipated expansion at CSULB, oil fields all around us....I just can't go on.

Thank you once again for agreeing to address these problems in a careful and thoughtful way...hopefully this time we can move forward to develop a compatible lifestyle for all of us.

Cordially

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