

From: Richard Gutmann [mailto:rwgutmann@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 4:32 AM

To: Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; City Manager <CityManager@longbeach.gov>; CityAttorney <CityAttorney@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Robert Garcia <Robert.Garcia@longbeach.gov>; Mary Zendejas <Mary.Zendejas@longbeach.gov>; Cindy Allen <Cindy.Allen@longbeach.gov>; Suzie Price <Suzie.Price@longbeach.gov>; Daryl Supernaw <Daryl.Supernaw@longbeach.gov>; Stacy Mungo <Stacy.Mungo@longbeach.gov>; Suely Saro <Suely.Saro@longbeach.gov>; Roberto Uranga <Roberto.Uranga@longbeach.gov>; Al Austin <Al.Austin@longbeach.gov>; rex.richardson@longbeach.gov

Cc: Ann Cantrell <anngadfly@aol.com>; Kimberly Walters <kimwalters@gmail.com>; corlisslee@aol.com; csovalle@gmail.com; acahni@gmail.com; hawkmcfadzen@gmail.com; ispatton@yahoo.com; jeovallec@gmail.com; lcangel2012@gmail.com; marco.romero01@student.csulb.edu; renee_matt@live.com; serenasteers.ccv@gmail.com; vaishaleechaudhary@gmail.com; Regina Taylor <rnewman1212@gmail.com>

Subject: Tiny Lots Used Improperly on West & North Sides of LB

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Mayor, Councilmembers, and Other City Officials,

Below are two letters and a page from an EIR that I previously posted on various social media. Since I don't know if you read those particular social media, I've included the letters in this email to make sure you've seen them. Together, they explain how tiny, 2,400 sq. ft. lots (such as proposed for 226 homes to be built on the Oil Operators' property) came to be used on the West and North sides of our City when they were never intended to be used there. Hopefully, you will do the right thing and not allow more of this neighborhood-wrecking zoning.

This zoning was forced upon residents of Wrigley Heights when the then-mayor's good friend (and later appointee to the Harbor Commission) wanted to build 176 condos in a neighborhood previously all single-family homes on standard-size R-1-N lots (6,000 sq. ft.).

The developer who eventually was allowed to build what are essentially yardless homes was the grandson of former city councilmember Virgil Sponberg.

One day I was in the City Clerk's office asking for documents regarding this particular development. Someone got word of my request and intercepted the person getting the papers and refused to let me have them. City Clerk Shelby Powell walked by and I told her, "I think this developer is being given special favors and they don't want me to know." He response, "It happens all the time."

LETTER #1

How Did Developers Start Getting to Build on Tiny (2,400 sq. ft.) Lots in LB?

In the 1980s, two residents of Wrigley Heights kept complaining to the City that the horse properties on Golden Avenue were not being kept up, resulting in flies and bad odors in the neighborhood. While the complaints were justified, the City should have made the stable owners clean up their places or be fined. Instead, they zoned the horses out and allowed single-family homes to be built on the smallest lots ever allowed outside of Belmont Shore and Naples, which have nearby beach to make up for lack of usable yard area.

That rezoning came about because then-Mayor Ernie Kell's reported best friend, Roy E. Hearrean (whom he later appointed to the Harbor Commission), wanted to construct 176 condo units where Countryside Lane was eventually built. The neighborhood vigorously fought that and eventually stopped it, but was forced to accept those tiny-lot homes (2,400 sq. ft. as opposed to the standard 6,000 sq. ft.) as a compromise.

That development turned out to be a real fiasco. The developer, Roland Spongberg, grandson of former city councilman Virgil H. Spongberg, was sued over 60 times in the approximately 10 years he was a developer. One of those suits was by the homeowners in the second phase of Countryside Lane. The first time it rained heavily after buying their new homes, five of those 11 units had water leak up through the floors. One owner said he vacuumed up many shop-vacs-full of water. The homeowners were about to get a summary judgment against Spongberg's company, Spongberg, Kirkland, when the developer filed bankruptcy, wiping out their suit and writing off over \$30 million in debts to 762 creditors.

LETTER #2

The tiny-lot zoning (R-1-S, 2,400 sq. ft.) as opposed to the standard lot size (R-1-N, 6,000 sq. ft.) was created specifically for the Belmont Shore area where ample beach is nearby to provide open space for residents whose homes essentially have no yard. It was never intended for use in the rest of the City. Please take a look at the following three links. Countryside Lane in Wrigley Heights is the first place where such zoning was improperly used.

<https://www.google.com/.../@33.8221702,-118.../data=!3m1!1e3>

Next was Orleans Way in North Long Beach.

<https://www.google.com/.../data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4...>

After that was the former Will J. Reid Scout Camp, again in North Long Beach. (Photo is while project was still under construction.)

<https://www.google.com/.../@33.841751,-118.../data=!3m1!1e3>

Now Long Beach wants to again allow the use of this improper zoning in Wrigley Heights on the Oil Operators' property.

Note how close these homes are to each other; kids have nowhere to play.

Please write your City Council members and ask why such projects are allowed in West and North Long Beach when they shouldn't be permitted anywhere!!

-----Original Message-----

From: Beverly Leifer [mailto:beveleifer@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 3:37 PM

To: Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; LBPDCCommander-West <LBPDCCommander-West@longbeach.gov>; LBPDCCommander-South <LBPDCCommander-South@longbeach.gov>; LBPDCCommander-North <LBPDCCommander-North@longbeach.gov>; LBPDCCommander-East <LBPDCCommander-East@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Senator.Gonzalez@senate.ca.gov; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; anthony.lopez@longbeach.gov; Robert Luna <Robert.Luna@longbeach.gov>; City Manager <CityManager@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Prosecutor <Prosecutor@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>
Subject: COVID-19 Memorial

-EXTERNAL-

Hi Cindy,

As a D2 and Long Beach resident, I am against the city spending money on a physical memorial for the 900 residents who died from COVID-19 or complications. I don't want my tax payer money or any city money spent this way. Though I have total empathy for their families, I believe there are much better ways to honor their memories as well as how to spend any money that would be used.

Let's use the money to honor them by putting it towards health care and school equity. Use the money to provide better health care in the most marginalized areas of our city. Use the money to buy laptops or tablets for our students. Use the money towards internet capabilities for our residents and students. Buy better air cleaners for our schools. These are all areas that during the pandemic have been found to sorely be lacking equity in our city. Or establish scholarships in the names of the dead.

Also, I was wondering how the mobile vaccine clinics (vans) be used once the city is done with giving vaccines? I would love to see these vans to be utilized as mobile health clinics for our homeless and/or marginalized neighborhoods. Bring more and better health equity to these people.

I look forward to having discussions with you on this issue.

Beverly Leifer

From: T [mailto:tie.ryder@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 12:03 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Subject: 21-0297- Housing Element General Comment-

-EXTERNAL-

Hello,

When it comes to affordable housing, ***it should include both rent and homeownership options for the working class, seniors, students, those with low or no income, and any others in need of such housing.*** All cities within SoCal must do more to prevent displacement of our residents by providing housing that we can afford.

Rent should NOT be taking more than 30% of a residents total income after taxes. For affordable rental housing it ***shouldn't*** have an expiration date on how long it remains affordable, it should always remain as such housing. Consider protecting the housing through a trust. ***In the last 10 years rent has increased by over 65% in SoCal, within that time frame the number of unhoused residents increased by over 50%.*** No sub cities or neighborhoods can be exempt from affordable housing. ***We must end racist and classist zoning that has disrupted the lives of many residents!***

Thank You council for your time.

Best,
Tieira
www.HTWWS.org



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