

Heather Flores

From: juan ovalle [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 3:08 PM
To: PlanningCommissioners; Christopher Koontz; Amy Harbin
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Item 2 Sept. 1, 2022 Agenda 712 Baker St. FEIR
Attachments: Wrigley Heights Grant Application CD.pdf; Letter of Support(1).pdf; Screen Shot 2022-09-01 at 1.46.13 PM.png; Screen Shot 2022-09-01 at 1.36.27 PM(1).png

-EXTERNAL-

September 1st, 2022

Planning Commission, City of Long Beach

Subject: Item 2 Sept. 1, 2022 Agenda 712 Baker St. FEIR

As a resident Western Long Beach that grew up and have lived only about a mile away from the Proposed 712 Baker St. project for over 50 years, I ask that you reject this project. As children, the LA River was our playground, riding my bike near the last remaining parcels north and south of the San Diego Freeway was a dream of future park land for all of us to enjoy.

As a member of the Riverpark Coalition, I agree with the comments made by our attorneys, Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Mineer, and would only like to echo a few comments made by colleagues at RPC and add a couple of documents for your consideration as you make that final vote.

On January 18, 2022, the following was part of the Parks & Rec Strategic Plan adopted by council, which you must read and perhaps even memorize. Wrigley and West Long Beach are a mainly working class community with over 80% of the population being of Hispanic and Asian descent.

"The City of Long Beach released the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative [RERI], an evolving report that was unanimously adopted by Long Beach City Council on June 23, 2020. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative identifies Equity Goals and Strategies that address issues of systemic racial inequality based on community feedback, national best practices, existing City data, and City Council priorities. The four key goals for the City are: GOAL 1 End systemic racism in Long Beach, in all local government and partner agencies, through internal transformation. GOAL 2 Design and invest in community safety and violence prevention. GOAL 3 Redesign police approach to community safety. GOAL 4 Improve health and wellness in the City by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism.

Oh, how the winds have changed from promised action towards meeting a goal, to political opportunists attempting to appease their donors. Using our City or their position as stepping stones for higher office as is the case with your current Commission President and of course our Mayor, who has received thousands of dollars from associates, employees and family of the Developer of the subject project is not acceptable!

In 2003 our acting City Manager Gerald R. Miller attempted to follow through on a promise by applying for a grant to purchase these 20 acres of land, please refer to the attached grant application. Today, we have a Mayor that may have acted unethically and may have violated a long tradition of Council and Mayors staying away from stating their support for a specific project until approved by Planning. In the case of most members of the Planning Commission, they have all been appointed by the Mayor himself. Now a letter to solidify his obligation to the Developer that contributed thousands of dollars is simply an open admonition to his obligation to those that pave his way with campaign contributions.

Oh yes, how things have changed in our City! Some for the better, some for the unethical. Decision makers, please reject this project and do what is right for our western Long Beach communities and protect the last remaining parcels of open land for future generations to enjoy as the riparian wetlands, trails, and forested land to act as a buffer to all the unseen pollution that is reducing the lifespan of our neighbors our children and ourselves.

Vote NO!

Juan E. Ovalle

Riverpark Coalition

<https://www.riverparkcoalition.org/>



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

August 30, 2022

Chair Joni Ricks-Oddie
Planning Commission, City of Long Beach
411 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Chair Ricks-Oddie and Planning Commissioners:

This week you will be considering an item on the Riverpark Residential Project. I am writing in strong support of this project. Its approval will support the housing and environmental goals in our city and have a positive impact on our community.

The Riverpark Residential Project will play an important role in the city's plan to create more housing and to address the issue of housing insecurity. Not only will the project create 226 new housing units, but it will also provide 12 units of affordable housing. This will move our city closer to accomplishing not only our own housing goals, but the goal set out by the State – upholding our city's record as a national leader and model.

In addition to providing housing, the project will improve and stimulate the surrounding community. It will do so by eliminating a contaminated site and replacing it with 5 acres of new park, dog park improvements, and upgrades to the city-owned park it will be located adjacent to. The recreational opportunities that this development will provide will be enormously beneficial to the surrounding Wrigley Heights community and our entire city.

Thank you for your consideration and your hard work on behalf of our City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

Top Contributors

These tables list the top donors to candidates in the 2021-2022 House election cycle **The organizations themselves did not donate, rather the money came from the organizations' PACs, their individual members or employees or owners, and those individuals' immediate families.** Organization totals include subsidiaries and affiliates.

Select cycle:

2022

[Download .csv file](#)

Robert Garcia (D)













Contributor	Total
American Israel Public Affairs Cmte	\$38,450
Curtin Maritime	\$17,400
Waterford Property Co	\$14,500
Lyon Living	\$13,800
Integral Communities	\$11,600
Shangri-La Industries	\$11,600
Comcast Corp	\$11,600
Keesal, Young & Logan	\$10,050
Insite Property Group	\$10,000
Beverly Connection Rockets	\$10,000
Billie Jean King Enterprises	\$8,700
Keck Graduate Institute	\$8,700
Real Estate Law Group	\$8,700
United Parcel Service	\$6,800
Eka	\$6,800
Demos	\$6,300
Corporate Enterprises	\$5,800
Catalyst Cannabis Co	\$5,800
Ttsi	\$5,800
Servicon Systems	\$5,800

Top Industries

Select cycle: 2022

Most members of Congress get the bulk of their campaign contributions from two main sources: the industries that make up the economic base of their home district and the Washington-based interest groups that pay more attention to the member's committee assignments in Congress. In addition, most Democrats receive substantial sums from labor unions. [• Read more](#)

Robert Garcia (D)

Industry	Total
Real Estate 	\$79,570 
Pro-Israel	\$56,600
Retired	\$52,449
Leadership PACs	\$35,500
Business Services	\$34,098
Building Trade Unions 	\$31,000 
Human Rights	\$30,340
Lawyers/Law Firms 	\$30,224 
TV/Movies/Music	\$25,860
Misc Unions	\$24,250
Construction Services 	\$23,055 
Lobbyists 	\$21,350 
Education	\$19,139
Civil Servants/Public Officials	\$15,900
Candidate Committees	\$14,000
Misc Finance	\$12,500
General Contractors 	\$11,850 

Heather Flores

From: Leslie Garretson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 4:16 PM
To: PlanningCommissioners; Christopher Koontz; Amy Harbin; Scott Kinsey; Heather Flores
Cc: Renee Lawler; Ann Cantrell; Serena Steers; Corliss Lee; Elena Tucci; Ian Patton; Juan Fragoso; Carlos Ovalle; Martin Holman; Juan Ovalle; Doug Carstens; Sunjana Supekar; Michelle Black
Subject: 712 Baker St. (APNs: 7203-002-001, 7203-002-005, 7203-002-007, 7203-002-008, 7203-002-009, 7203-002-010) Application numbers; 2003-24 (ZCHG20-002, SPR20-007, VTTM20-002, DA20-001, GPC21-003)

-EXTERNAL-

Objection to River Park Residential Project, 712 Baker Street, State Clearinghouse No. 2021020492

I am an affected resident and Board member of Riverpark Coalition. I request the Commission reject this harmful Project in favor of the long-planned and much-needed Los Angeles River park that would be forever foreclosed if the City approves this Project. I am in support of our legal counsel Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter LLP's correspondence and would like to add:

1. Including the Mayor's letter of support to the Planning Commission is problematic, these are appointees made by the Mayor to the Planning Commission. Recusing himself is not sufficient, the damage is done, While Dawn McIntosh stated it was not illegal for him to support an item before the Planning Commission, it still gives an impression of bias if he were to participate in the discussion when the item comes to the City Council, so we have advised him that he will need to recuse himself.
2. Mayor Garcia, as well as some councilmembers, have received substantial campaign contributions from the developer, Integral Communities, LLC while their project is under consideration. Mayor Garcia's campaign donors include primarily real estate developers but also include other industries directly and indirectly linked to increased for-profit market luxury housing developments, such as the gated community now under consideration, and therefore must retract his deceptive letter of support.
3. At approximately 2:30 today the requirement for a virtual speaker card has been removed from the Planning Commission website. The illegal requirement was on the City website for more than a month, there has been no public notification it was removed (and if so, insufficient notice for a 5pm meeting) and only transmitted to Riverpark Coalition and our legal advisors.

At a minimum, I further request a postponement of the hearing to allow further investigation into other conflicts of interest, including members of the Planning Commission, city staff, and councilmembers.

Sincerely,

*Leslie Ann Garretson
Riverpark Coalition Board Member
Los Cerritos Neighborhood Association
Los Cerritos/Bixby Knolls Clean Streets
Friends of Los Cerritos Committee*



"When you cease to make a contribution you begin to die". Eleanor Roosevelt

Heather Flores

From: RAE GABELICH [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 4:25 PM
To: PlanningCommissioners
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 712 Baker vote

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Commissioners,

Tonight, on agenda item #2 you are being asked to support a high density housing project that has been questioned by the area neighborhoods for many years.

We hear daily about the needs for housing across our state, but we do not hear our commissioners or elected bodies address the concerns of residents living within those areas today. Tonight, you have the opportunity to do just that.

Over the years this space has been considered for open space as well as residential development. The city states that they have never had access to purchase this private property, but chances are **the efforts have never been there**.

The Trust for Public Land claims that Long Beach does not/ has not approached them on several plots of land that could have been significant additions to our westside open spaces. This side of our city that is lacking appropriate recreational spaces has seen minimal effort to change that reality.

It is unfortunate that Mayor Garcia, the person responsible for your commission appointments, thought he should demonstrate his desire for this project to be approved. Neither the mayor nor the council members are suppose to attempt to influence your decisions. And certainly not when local political campaigns are on the table.

This same developer was awarded a zone change for the Will J. Reid Boy Scout Park several years back. That ten acres would have allowed much needed open space in the Uptown area of Long Beach. Instead, we have 131 homes on 10 acres. A high density privatized development in a challenged neighborhood that deserved improvements on recreational opportunities was approved and blessed and built with little discussion or demands.

I was a founding member of CARP (Citizen's About Responsible Planning) when this project was going through the city cycle of demands and approvals. We challenged that approved project and reached a settlement with the developers. They still went back to OC with millions in their pockets. Long Beach gained 131 high density homes and again lost the opportunity to improve quality of life for the residents who already live here.

Your constituents do not want to take legal action to make a point. We want this and every other decision making body to allow for the questions to be addressed in advance of approval. We want our visionaries to consider improving the quality of life for ALL of Long Beach. More is not always better!

And finally, when housing projects are approved they should be required to meet all sustainable building practices from solar to water needs. From neighborhood assets (parking, traffic flow, recreation) for all, to more public safety provided as more residents are being added to the city.

Please open this discussion and consider this particular project to be at minimum downsized in number of units and heights of allowable homes. As one of the last large plots of land along the LA River your consideration could greatly influence the nature of our Long Beach.

Thank you,

Rae Gabelich
Former 8th District Council member

Heather Flores

From: R.M. Holman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 4:26 PM
To: PlanningCommissioners; Christopher Koontz; Amy Harbin; Scott Kinsey; Heather Flores
Subject: Objection to River Park Residential Project, 712 Baker Street, State Clearinghouse No. 2021020492

-EXTERNAL-

Objection to River Park Residential Project, 712 Baker Street, State Clearinghouse No. 2021020492

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At a minimum, I further request a postponement of the hearing to allow further investigation into other conflicts of interest, including members of the Planning Commission, city staff, and councilmembers.

Sincerely,
Roger Martin Holman
[REDACTED]