



October 19, 2010

Dear Councilmember:

I am writing as a representative of the Long Beach Coalition for Good Jobs and a Healthy Community. The Long Beach Coalition was founded on the principle of responsible development. Responsible development is characterized by two main components: 1.) policies which prioritize community impact and include community benefits, such as creation of jobs that pay living wages and provide affordable family health benefits, and 2.) transparency in the process, meaning that policies are built from the ground up and residents whose lives are most affected by a decision are able to have meaningful input into those decisions.

The Downtown Community Plan which the Council is moving to approve ignores both of these critical components of responsible development. I urge the City Council to pause the release of the Downtown Community Plan and Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) so that an economic benefit study can be completed and space can be created for greater community input. The Coalition believes that a four month delay is reasonable to take advantage of the California Endowment's generous offer to fund this study. We feel it would be foolish not to use this opportunity to generate additional data critical to a more meaningful discussion around the effects of the Downtown Community Plan and the importance of including comprehensive community benefits into the Plan.

Even in the wake of the lobbying scandal in Council last year, the community remains shut out from being able to give meaningful input. Your decision will directly and indirectly affect the quality of life for thousands of Long Beach residents over the next generation; as such a four month delay is a small request to ensure we hear from those residents most affected by the Plan and to have the data necessary for an informed and responsible decision.

Sincerely,  
Professor Gary Hytrek  
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Cal State University Long Beach