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CALIFORNIA



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January 14, 2009

S. Gail Goldberg, AICP
Director of Planning
Los Angeles Department of City Planning
200 North Spring Street, 5th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90012

Cecilia V. Estolano
Chief Executive Officer
The Community Redevelopment Agency of LA
354 South Spring Street, Suite 800
Los Angeles, California 90013

RE: **Downtown Urban Design Guidelines & Street Standards**
Planning Case #: CPC-2008-4502-GPA/CPC-2008-4503-CA/CPC-2008-4504-MS

Dear Director Goldberg and Ms. Estolano:

At our regularly held public meeting on May 13, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to submit the following letter of support and comments regarding the final version of the Downtown Design Guide and related Street Standards (collectively, "Guidelines") prepared by the CRA/LA and the LA City Planning Department's Urban Design Studio ("Studio"), pursuant to the motion passed on April 23, 2008, by DLANC's Planning & Land Use Committee.

DLANC strongly supports the Guidelines and their fundamental purpose of creating a livable Downtown that is both dense and pedestrian-friendly. We also appreciate the emphasis of developing Downtown as a more sustainable community, with great streets, districts and neighborhoods that create a vibrant place for all of our residents, workers, businesses and visitors. In DLANC's view, the Guidelines strike an appropriate balance between providing specific standards necessary to ensure the creation and enhancement of pedestrian-friendly streets, while at the same time providing sufficient flexibility to ensure that innovative and challenging architecture continues to be welcome in Downtown.

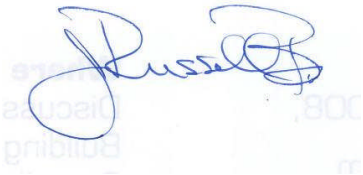
By providing defined standards for new development in Downtown, we believe the Guidelines can reduce the administrative burden faced by new projects and thereby encourage critically-needed investment from the private sector. At the same time, DLANC believes the Guidelines provide important direction to the public sector, including the various City departments with oversight of new development projects and of the public infrastructure improvements that will need to be made as Downtown continues to grow.

DLANC would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Urban Design Studio and the staff and consultants of the CRA/LA to engage with DLANC and other important stakeholders, including the development community. It is our belief that the excellence of the final Guidelines reflects the open and on-going public dialogue, and encourages the City to consider those outreach efforts as a model for future planning projects in and around Downtown.

Thank you for your efforts in moving the Guidelines forward to approval. We look forward to working with you and your staffs in using the Guidelines as the “blueprints” for new development in Downtown.

Very truly yours,

Very truly yours,



J. Russell Brown
DLANC President



Shiraz D. Tangri
DLANC Planning & Land Use Committee Co-Chair

CC: Greg Fischer/Marie Rumsey (Council District 9)
Tara Devine/Edel Vizcarra (Council District 14)
Emily Gabel-Luddy/Simon Pastucha (LA City Planning Department)
Lillian Burkenheim (CRA/LA)
Pat L. Smith