



March 24, 2011

Mr. Daniel Yukelson, Vice Chair
Mr. Brian Rosenstein, Commissioner
Mr. Craig Corman, Commissioner
Mr. Nanette H. Cole, Commissioner
Mr. Noah D. Furie, Commissioner

Dear Chair Yukelson & Commissioners:

Today on your agenda there is a significant project scheduled for a heading: item #4. '9817 Wilshire Boulevard, 9844 Wilshire Boulevard, and 9900 Santa Monica Boulevard.' The item reads, "Final Environmental Impact Report for a Request for a General Plan Amendment and Zone Change on three T-1 zoned properties and a Development Plan Review...." But the agenda item does not indicate what action, if any, that the Commission may take in today's hearing.

The staff report does note that the Commission may either 1) approve the zoning change for one or all properties thereby adopting the findings and the final environmental impact statement; 2) reject the zoning change but adopt the statement, again for one or all of the properties; 3) take testimony and refer the issue back to staff requesting guidance concerning a zoning overlay and/or possible a reduction of the project scale or character.

Yet the agenda item is not marked as an action item nor does it suggest what may be the possible courses of action – and specifically that the environmental impact statement may or may not be adopted as final at today's meeting. The language of the agenda item merely states the fact of the existence of the final impact report.

I telephoned the Planning division on Monday seeking more information about this potential three-story, 45-foot high office project (no less than 90,000 square feet with a four-level parking garage) proposed for a current T-zone,. I left a message for City Planner Reyes but never heard back.

This is a project of keen interest to the members of Better Bike Beverly Hills., who support retaining the 'T' zone for these three parcels. We would like to be able to comment as an organization, but as a representative handling this issue, I don't believe that I can comment in an informed fashion because I am unable to contact staffers in the department – even on the morning of the hearing.

I have tried for several days for more information but always receive a voicemail. On Monday, after I had left a message for David Reyes, I followed up with a call to the city's general information line and was told that the department was in a staff meeting. My call was not returned that day, or to date. [Update: I did receive a call from Mr. Reyes after following up via Comcate, and he clarified some process issues to my satisfaction.]

March 24, 2011
To: Planning Commission
Re: Unable to contact Planning

For interested parties who want to learn more, let me add that there is no telephone number on the staff report listed for Jonathan Lait, the City Planner who reviewed the report. Moreover, the general number listed on that staff report (310-458-1140) is non-working number.

As a resident and a representative of a local organization concerned about the zone change from Transportation to Commercial, as well as the scale and character of the proposed project for a corridor described in our General Plan as a potential pedestrian and/or gallery district 'gateway,' I am concerned and want to comment, I just don't feel that I have the information I need to be able to comment responsibly.

Given the language of the agenda item and my uncertainty after reading the staff report about what staff may recommend, I will attend to learn more but remain concerned that our department is not being managed effectively if a member of the public is unable to contact staffers there over several days.

I want to bring these issues to the attention of the Planning Commission because the Planning division seems unable to support members of the public who may have concerns about imminent Commission action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Elliot". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.