

From: Sean Starkey <sean.starkey@lacity.org>
Sent time: 05/21/2020 03:24:57 PM
To: Craig Bullock <craig.bullock@lacity.org>
Subject: Fwd: EXTENSION OF REVIEW PERIOD JUNE 1 DEADLINE FOR HOLLYWOOD CENTER PROJECT

fyi...

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael Goldstein** <mg@goldsteinlawgroup.com>
Date: Thu, May 21, 2020 at 3:17 PM
Subject: EXTENSION OF REVIEW PERIOD JUNE 1 DEADLINE FOR HOLLYWOOD CENTER PROJECT
To: sean.starkey@lacity.org <sean.starkey@lacity.org>, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>
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Councilmember O'Farrell,

I met you several years ago while you were running for your current position. A dear friend of mine, Tim Starks volunteered for your campaign. I have been impressed with your leadership and vision for the City. I am now your constituent and a property owner at The Broadway Hollywood. I am concerned.

As you know, The Broadway is an iconic and historic landmark in the middle of Hollywood. The current scale of the Hollywood Center development will severely impact our neighborhood, overall traffic, quality of life and property values. Your office has made it clear you oppose an extension of the June 1st EIR deadline. Mindy Nguyen of City Planning also opposes this request. This makes no sense at all, especially given the fact that it falls during a pandemic never seen before that has placed all Angelenos on a stay-at-home order. That includes you. Your constituents and the citizens of Los Angeles deserve proper due process.

In August 2019, a California Appeals court ruled that the previous EIR submitted for the same property under the name Millennium Project was "fatally defective." So, here we go again--same piece of property, different name. I will do my best to be more direct

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190802005459/en/AHF-Praises-California-Court-Appeal-Ruling-Halting>

<https://hollywoodland.org/77885-2/>

I am writing you to ascertain the following facts:

- 1. What is your official position on the Hollywood Center Development?**
- 2. Why you oppose an extension of the June 1st EIR deadline?**
- 3. Your position as to whether recent allegations of fraud, corruption and pay to play tactics involving Raymond Chan, George Chiang, unknown lobbyists or any other officials may have impacted the review and approval process of the Hollywood Center development?**

It is no secret there is an ongoing federal corruption investigation concerning allegations of corruption, fraud, bribes and pay-to-play antics that involve the Department of Building and Safety, a former Deputy Mayor, private lobbyists and other agencies. To date, search warrants have been executed, indictments have been handed down and there have been guilty pleas. Several articles have referenced the name of a current Los Angeles Councilmember as a potential target of this investigation. This investigation is ongoing, expanding and is almost certain to result in the indictment of several more individuals. More specifically, several public reports confirm the investigation involves a former Deputy Mayor who headed the same Department of Building and Safety department who presumably would have been involved the approval process of large scale real estate developments in Los Angeles. Is this not a red flag?

The following is an excerpt from a May 13 *Department of Justice press release* following the guilty plea by George Chiang:

“In addition, Chiang agreed to pay Individual 1 a share of the lucrative consulting proceeds he received from Company D in exchange for Individual 1 shepherding Project D through the approval process in Individual 1’s capacity as Deputy Mayor, according to the plea agreement’s factual basis. Individual 1 directly and indirectly accepted more than \$100,000 from Chiang for assisting in obtaining approvals for Project D, including by exerting pressure on other City officials who could influence the project’s success, according to court documents”

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/consultant-agrees-plead-guilty-rico-offense-related-bribery-scheme-enriched-la-city>

<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-deputy-mayor-fundraising-20190130-story.html>

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-05-20/federal-corruption-investigation-la-city-hall-ray-chan>

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-05-13/la-city-hall-corruption-consultant-guilty-plea>

As a property owner at the Broadway Hollywood Building and one of your constituents, I am deeply concerned about the substantial impact this project will have on the overall traffic, congestion, air quality, ability to access our parking structure and property values. Quite frankly, this project is completely out of scale for the area and is substantially larger in size than even the most recent developments in the area.

Most importantly, **I am concerned that you are not even willing to extend the review period within which to conduct a greater study and listen to the residents of surrounding neighborhoods.** What is the downside? Does denial of this request further your service on behalf of your constituents? Common sense should dictate that a deadline of June 1st during a pandemic where Angelenos are required to stay at home would provide good reason for an extension. Given the recent fraud and corruption investigations, indictments and guilty pleas, I am shocked you would find good reason to oppose an extension.

Councilmember David Ryu is in favor of this extension and has even introduced anti-fraud legislation to avoid the kind of issues we are now dealing with. The citizens of Los Angeles need to know that there is a fair process and that our civil servants are truly looking out for the people.

In short, the Draft EIR conclusion statement of no significant impacts is flawed. The Project would result in significant irreversible direct and indirect impacts and avoidable operational impacts for the Broadway Hollywood Building at the corner of Hollywood and Vine.

http://davidryu.lacity.org/councilmember_ryu_introduces_anti_corruption_legislation

Citizens of Los Angeles trust their elected officials to hold the best interests of their constituents as paramount over all else.

I would welcome a conversation about these issues but time is of the essence and we need to deal with this deadline. You can expect an outpour of similar concerns from surrounding neighbors, HOA's and other interested parties. Federal corruption investigations, search warrants and indictments are no small matter, especially when they involve the very people and agencies that greenlight such large real estate developments.

I trust you will consider this reasonable request. Perhaps a meeting at your office with each of the HOA's would be an efficient way to address this issue?

Best,

Michael

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