

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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12 December 2023

Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Chair, PLUM Committee
Councilmember, Council District 8

VIA EMAIL

Re: Community Impact Statement for CF-22-0617-S6

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (DLANC) has reviewed City Planning's Report on REPORT ON POTENTIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY PLAN RELATED TO PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE, and would like to express our position on CF-22-0617-S6 as "For if Amended" per the following:

Approval Process for Publicly Available Open Space (Item 5.a)

DLANC does not support the proposed change to establish an approval process that ensures all publicly available open space meets design standards and requirements established by the Department of Recreation and Parks for city parks. We affirm City Planning's findings and caution that such a process could lead to unnecessary bureaucracy and delay the creation of valuable open spaces in our community.

Variety of Open Space Options (Item 5.b)

While DLANC acknowledges the Councilmember's position on the importance of diverse open space options, we strongly oppose the recommendation by City Planning to eliminate 'public art' and 'dog runs' from the list of amenity options to 'ensure the remaining amenities provide the greatest impact.' This recommendation fails to recognize the well-documented benefits of public art in enhancing neighborhood beauty, increasing property values, and stimulating investment. Additionally, the substantial number of dog owners in the area necessitates the inclusion of dog-friendly spaces. The historical underutilization of available Arts Development Fee (ADF) funds, coupled with the abandonment of a proposed park project, highlights the critical need for the Zoning Code to actively support the establishment of such amenities.

Maintenance Plan for Privately Owned Public Open Space (Item 5.c)

DLANC agrees that a maintenance plan for all privately owned public open space, approved by the Department

of Recreation and Parks, is essential to ensure the long-term care and quality of these spaces.

Community Benefit Program (Item 5.d)

DLANC supports the proposed community benefit program that allows developments to contribute to a select list of priorities established by the Department of Recreation and Parks. The construction of new parks and the rehabilitation of Pershing Square are vital for the welfare of our community, and we endorse this proactive approach to urban development.

In conclusion, DLANC advocates for thoughtful, inclusive planning that integrates the needs of all stakeholders, including pet owners, youth, tourists, and residents who seek a greener, more creative, and thoughtfully planned Downtown. Our community deserves open spaces that are not only functional but also contribute to the cultural and aesthetic value of our urban environment.

We appreciate your attention to our stance on these matters and remain committed to working collaboratively towards a vibrant and inclusive Downtown Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

*** SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY DLANC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 12, 2023 ***

Claudia Oliveira
President,
DLANC

Samir Bitar
Chair,
DLANC Planning & Land Use Committee

Cc: Kevin De León, Councilmember, Council District 14
City Planner, City of Los Angeles