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## HARBOR GATEWAY NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

P.O. Box 3723, Gardena, CA 90247 (310) 768-3853 tel (310) 538-9654 fax  
[www.harborgatewaynorth.org](http://www.harborgatewaynorth.org) [HGNNC@sbcglobal.net](mailto:HGNNC@sbcglobal.net)

October 15, 2020

Councilmember Joe Buscaino  
Council member Marqueece Harris-Dawson  
City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Elimination of PLUM Committee review for “high value” projects

Dear Councilmembers Buscaino and Harris-Dawson,

On October 13, 2020, our Board voted 9-2-1 to oppose Council File 20-1044, which would eliminate review by the City Council’s Planning and Land Use Committee of “high value” projects and have them voted on after City Planning Commission review by the City Council only.

The argument for this new procedure is that the developers of these “high value” projects have the funds to hire consultants and lobbyists who put pressure on members of the Planning and Land Use Management to get their desired result. The proposed “solution” assumes that the “high value” developers will not have their consultants and lobbyists pressure fifteen individual City Councilmembers instead of five members of the PLUM Committee.

A potential solution to the issue is further restrictions on contributions related to developments before the City of Los Angeles. Bypassing the PLUM Committee means that there will be even less review by the public of major development projects than there is now. The City Council agenda does not afford enough time for the hour to two or more review of a large project; that is the role of a Committee.

Sincerely,

David Matthews, Chairperson  
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

cc: Vince Bertoni, Director of City Planning  
Aksel Palacios, Planning Director – Council District 15  
Kristen Gordon, Planning and Economic Development Deputy - Council District 8