



Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council

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WHEREAS, City of Los Angeles Administrators and City Officials have been working behind closed doors for months on an update of the General Plan detailing guidelines for the LA Planning Department regarding future development of LA City land, which is to be presented to the public and Neighborhood Councils sometime this fall; and

WHEREAS, 1) Mayor Garcetti executed Mayoral Directive 19 on March 9, 2017 stating in part, "We will enhance public confidence in our planning process by ensuring that all discussions with Planning Commissioners regarding projects under their consideration are public discussions," and 2) City Councilman Jose Huizar, chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, pledged to bring "accountability and transparency back into our General Plan and Community Plan processes"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is several years behind other Western U.S. cities in involving its citizens in the processes in updating the General Plan; and

WHEREAS, public money and public interests are major factors in the earliest decision-making strategic processes in updating the General Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is widely agreed the public cannot fully participate in the General Plan update meetings, hearings and debates, even when public, due to the daytime hours of those meetings, hearings and debates; and

WHEREAS, closed-door meetings on the fundamental debates and decisions about the goals for the General Plan update is creating a growing environment of public distrust; and

WHEREAS, [The State of California General Plan Guidelines](#) affirms: "State law mandates citizen involvement in general plan preparation "through public hearings and any other means the city or county deems appropriate" (§65351). The public should be involved in the formulation of objectives to help make sure that they reflect community values." (*Page 42, CHAPTER 3: Preparing and Amending the General Plan, Formulating Objectives and Policy*), AND "Inclusive representation is critical in the planning process, as highlighted by the growth of the environmental justice movement. It is not enough to contact community groups. The process must be open and accessible to the entire community." (*Page 143 PROCESS DESIGN*)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council strongly insists, without reservation, the current and future Planning Department Work Group meetings and any/all other related planning committee/group meetings on the subject of the update to the General Plan, and its many Elements, and all Community Plans be held, 1) with full transparency to the public, 2) be set for evening and weekend hours, 3) be open to the public from this moment forward in the same manner as dictated by [Mayoral Directive 19](#) in regards to the Planning Commission, and 4) with the inclusion of invited representatives from each Neighborhood Council, and in the case of the completed meeting schedule of the Open Space Work Group, an additional three meetings of the Open Space Work Group, open to the public, be immediately scheduled with the desired affect of obtaining public participation/input in the crafting of this Element; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Rampart Village Neighborhood Council strongly insists, without reservation, the Mayor direct the Planning Task Force and the Transportation Infrastructure Steering Committee to, 1) immediately begin conducting all of their respective meetings as open to the public, 2) be set for evening and weekend hours, 3) conduct all meetings with full transparency to the public, 4) suspend the practice of closed-door meetings of all Planning Task Force and the Transportation Infrastructure Steering Committee meetings in the same manner as [Mayoral Directive 19](#) in regards to the Planning Commission, and 5) conduct all meetings with the inclusion of invited representatives from each Neighborhood Council.

Submitted by: [Boyle Heights Planning and Land Use Committee](#)
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