

Serra Mesa Planning Group

A Recognized San Diego City Planning Group - Serving the Citizens of Serra Mesa

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Dear City Councilmember LaCava,

The Serra Mesa Community Planning Group is very appreciative of you and your team's efforts to propose reforms to the San Diego City Council Policy CP 600-24 to ensure it complies with the City Charter. As the voice of the community, we hope that the City will continue to support Community Planning Groups in the following ways:

- Provide templates for required documentation for CPG recognition application
- Notify CPGs of discretionary permits and actions in our communities
- Encourage relevant city staff to attend CPG meetings when appropriate to provide input and updates
- Continue to make education and training available to CPG members on the Brown Act, land use planning processes, and other relevant topics

Regarding the proposed Terms and Conditions, we would like to provide comments for your consideration on the following:

Section 2.2 states that City staff and development project applicants are not required by the City to present their project or application before the CPG although the City encourages applicants to conduct robust engagement. While we understand that CPG engagement is not required by development project applicants, **the City should make a concerted effort to timely notify CPGs of discretionary permits and actions** occurring in their areas, as providing feedback and input on such projects as the voice of the community is the essential purpose of CPGs.

Section 2.5 states that CPGs will be required to maintain all records for 5 years either digitally or hard copies and make them available to the City upon request. As many groups (such as ours) do not currently have the finances or technical expertise to have their own website or social media channel, we strongly **urge the City to continue to at least post all CPG's agendas and minutes in a central place** on their website to allow the public to more easily stay up to date on CPG activities.

Section 3.3 states that CPGs will be required to collect demographic data of voting members and the community at large and submit to the City Clerk. **The City should provide a means to collect this data**, whether a template, assistance with conducting a survey, or the community data itself if the City has it. It will be nearly impossible for a CPG to conduct a demographic survey of their entire community.

Section 4.3 states that CPG should designate at least a pro-rata share of voting member seats for home renters. The City should provide the demographic data of the community to enable a CPG to determine how many seats would be designated. As finding renters who are willing to participate can be difficult, The Terms and Conditions should also **allow for such designated seats to be filled by any eligible candidate if a good faith effort to fill the seat with a renter fails.**

Respectfully submitted,
Serra Mesa Planning Group