

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

June 9, 2021

Agenda Item # 9

MOTION TO OPPOSE COUNCILMEMBER KORETZ' SECOND MOTION TO AMEND THE WESTWOOD VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN

The Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes Councilmember Koretz' Second Motion to Amend the Westwood Village Specific Plan that:

1. Removes the CAP on the number of food uses thus changing a basic goal of the Plan to insure a "balanced mix of uses."
2. Removes from the Design Review Board (DRB) the review of signage thus allowing plastic, neon, etc. signs rather than carefully designed and approved signs. The WWNC supports fee reduction and process time for the applicant but oppose removing the DRB from oversight.
3. Removes any guarantee that the Village will have sit-down restaurants.
4. Allows unlimited financial service on the ground level including banks, real estate offices, escrow offices, and insurance offices without any study thus enabling uses that go dark at dusk and deadening the pedestrian experience.
5. Allows all Fast Casual restaurants to have a full bar.
6. Has had NO community outreach.
7. Has not been analyzed or studied and creates inconsistencies with Design Review Board Procedures, Sec. 16.50.
8. Creates ministerial review for signage as it would be approved over the counter with NO notice to the community, NO public hearing, and NO ability to appeal even by neighboring property owners who might be affected.

These are major changes to the Plan that we oppose. We request community outreach, that the council file be left open for at least 60 days, that the Planning Dept. study, analyze, and report back to the WWNC its findings, that discussion and comment be solicited with and from the Westwood Design Review Board, that all inconsistencies with other ordinances and DRB Practices and Procedures be addressed, that a CAP be placed on food use in order to maintain a balanced mix of uses, signage going to DRB must require 1 public hearing and encourage landlords to adopt signage programs, and finally, to remove all ministerial review.