

# WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

June 14, 2017

Agenda Item #9

## **MOTION REGARDING LOS ANGELES GENERAL PLAN, OPEN SPACE ELEMENT – FULLY TRANSPARENT MEETINGS**

Whereas the city has for months been working on a plan behind closed doors for the overall vision and dreams for Los Angeles, the **General Plan**, which is to be presented to the public and Neighborhood Councils sometime this fall;

And whereas Mayor Garcetti has said, residents must have "a sense of ownership over the development of our communities," and City Councilman Jose Huizar, chair of the powerful PLUM committee, pledged to bring "accountability and transparency back into our **General Plan and Community Plan** processes";

And whereas Los Angeles is several years behind other Western U.S. cities in involving its citizens in a **General Plan Update** process that starts from the ground up;

And whereas public money and public interest are major factors in the earliest decision-making on our **General Plan Update** process, strategies, and dreams;

And whereas it is widely agreed the public cannot fully participate in **General Plan Updating** meetings, hearings and debates that unfold during the day downtown;

And whereas closed-door meetings on the fundamental debates and decisions about our dreams and goals for updating of the **General Plan** can only create more distrust and dismay over the city's broken planning system;

The Westwood Neighborhood Council requests that now-underway, and upcoming, Planning Department Work Group meetings about our shared ideas and ideals for the **Los Angeles General Plan** and its many Elements be made fully transparent, be set at evening and weekend hours; be open to the public as of now; invite a representative from each neighborhood alliance; and in the case of the nearly completed Open Space Work Group, be expanded from the four meetings completed in closed-door sessions, to four extra meetings that follow the prescription in this paragraph.

We further request, in the same vein, that the Mayor's Planning Task Force and Transportation Infrastructure Steering Committee for the **General Plan** both be made fully transparent, be set at evening and weekend hours; be open to the public as of now; and expand their closed-door meetings to several additional meetings that follow the prescription in this paragraph.

