Dear Colleagues:

As discussed at the NWNC Executive Committee last night (11/03/2026), herewith, please find the CIS (Draft), that I/we propose be sent to the City Planning and Land Use Committee members **opposing CF 09-0969s4**, the increased fees proposal affecting non-applicants for their appeal process participation in Planning and Land Use decisions. I am a novice at creating and submitting a CIS, so your assistance/guidance in the procedure is appreciated.

Please review this draft for consideration:

Dear Councilmembers and City Planning Staff:

We on the Northridge West Neighborhood Council formally object

and urge you to reconsider the proposed increases in non-applicant

appeal fees under **Council File No. 09-0969-S4**.

We understand the city's concern about the cost of processing

appeals and the approximately $4 million in subsidies reportedly

required.

However, raising fees from $229 to $1,145 for residents within a

project's noticing or mailing radius of 500', and to $2,289 for those

outside it, would price ordinary residents out of one of the few

formal and meaningful mechanisms residents have to contest a

flawed Planning decision and extend their participation in the

planning process.

Appeals are not simply an administrative expense, and a project's

impacts do not stop at a 500 foot mailing radius. A higher fee does

nothing to designate a frivolous appeal from a well-founded one.

Los Angeles subsidizes many programs and services because their

Public Benefit justifies the cost. Public oversight, inclusive of normal

residents maintaining the ability to file an appeal, deserves the same consideration.

These proposed fee increases could disproportionately affect lower-income communities and communities of color, whose residents may have fewer resources to organize, hire professional assistance, or challenge development that could harm their neighborhoods.

Before imposing increases of this magnitude, the City should examine ways to make processing more efficient and embed safeguards so that the right to appeal does not depend on a resident's income.

The City should consider that appeals often identify real errors in Planning decisions, and it would save time and City resources implementing more efficient corrective strategies that reduce future Planning decision errors without creating financial barriers to Public participation. The city should not evaluate appeals solely through a cost-recovery lens while overlooking their role in protecting the public against errors and inadequate decision-making.

We respectfully ask the Council to reconsider these fee increases, assess their likely impact on public participation, explore less burdensome alternatives, and establish safeguards so that the ability to challenge questionable government decisions does not depend on a resident's financial circumstances. Please reject excessive appeal-fee increases and preserve meaningful public

oversight in Los Angeles's planning process.

Respectfully,

Janis Kraft, President, Northridge West Neighborhood Council
Kathleen Edwards, VP Administration, No