



Mar Vista Community Council



MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, February 10th, 2015, at 7:00 P.M.
Mar Vista Recreation Center Auditorium
11430 Woodbine Street, Mar Vista, CA
90066

MINUTES

1. **Call to order and Welcome** – Chair (1 min)
Meeting called to order at 7:11 P.M.
Quorum present: Bill Koontz (chair), Bill Scheduling (treasurer), Mitchell Rishe (1st vice chair), John Kutcha (2nd vice chair), Melissa Stoller (secretary), Sherri Akers, Ken Alprin, Valerie Davidson, Robin Doyno, Michelle Krupkin, Michael Mellman, Brad Wilhite
2. **Presentation of flag and Pledge of Allegiance** (1 min)
3. **Approval of January 2014 Minutes** (public comment permitted) (1 min)
Minutes approved with one abstention (John Kutcha)
4. **Public Comment & Announcements** - for items not on the agenda (max 1 min each unless waived by the Chair)
 - Bob Gould, WLA Chamber of Commerce (westlchamber.org): doing outreach to get more involved with Westside Neighborhood Councils. Interested in having NCs come to events and join the WLA Chamber.
Upcoming events:
 - February 19: mixer at Lenny's Deli, 5:00-7:00 P.M.
 - March 19: mixer at Delphi Greek Restaurant, 5:30-7:30 P.M. with special guest former governor Michael Dukakis
5. **Elected Officials and City Department Reports** (max 1 min. each unless waived by the Chair)
 - a. CD 11 – CM Mike Bonin, rep. by Field Deputy Len Nguyen Len.Nguyen@lacity.org
 - Great Street Open House was very well attended, lots of good feedback (350 surveys)
 - New stop signs installed at Pacific and Wade
 - Working with DWP to address concerns about landscaping at substation on Venice at McLaughlin
 - Volunteers are cleaning up NE corner of Venice and McLaughlin; Office of Community Beautification is providing tools. Carter Rubin (mayor's office) might be able to fast track action.
 - Ken Alprin (when do we look at northern alleyway?): need to be sure southern alleyway is properly done
 - Val Davidson (status of changing Venice Blvd. from state to city?): being hashed out downtown; state has to either make improvements or give the city a chunk of money.
 - b. Mar Vista Recreation Center – Lizka Mendoza, Director
 - Lizka Mendoza (Lizka.mendoza@lacity.org) introduced herself; she was previously at Oakwood Recreation Center
 - c. CD 5 – Paul Koretz, rep by Joseph Galloway joejdg92@gmail.com
 - d. US 36 – Janice Hahn
 - e. CA Assembly 54-Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, rep by Scott Malsin scott.malsin@assembly.ca.gov
 - f. Congressman – Ted Lieu, rep. by Robert Pullen-Miles Robert.Pullen-Miles@sen.ca.gov
 - g. CA Assembly 47
 - h. CA Assembly 62

- i. 2nd Dist. L. A. County Board Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, rep. by Karly Katona, Karly.Katona@bos.lacounty.gov
 - j. Mayor of Los Angeles – Eric Garcetti, rep. by Daniel Tamm, Daniel.tamm@lacity.org
 - Mayor Garcetti has made transportation funding a priority; Federal budget allocates \$330 million for LA transit projects
 - LHASA homeless count: every Westside neighborhood participated
 - Settlement for VA facility: WLA VA campus will provide housing and supportive resources. Mayor Garcetti pledged to end veteran homelessness by end of 2015; he’s pushing “housing first,” and then substance abuse recovery. There will be a briefing on veteran’s homelessness on February 23, 10:00–11:30 A.M., in council chambers; contact Daniel for free parking pass at least 48 hours before.
 - Reinvigorated LA Youth Council is accepting applications through Sunday, February 7 at mayor.youthcouncil@lacity.org. Daniel will vet applicants, find about 25 students—ideally 10th graders who yearn for civic engagement & community service projects.
 - Mayor proposed raising minimum wage to \$13.25 by 2017, and then tying it to CPI; City Council is considering proposal, wants higher wage. Daniel can meet with small groups (house parties) to discuss.
6. **Officers and Liaison** Reports (Action items included with public comment permitted, 1 min per speaker)
- a. Chair-Bill Koontz
 - i. Follow up on ethics training and code of conduct policy signatures
 - Robin, Brad & Sherri need to complete funding training
 - Most have completed ethics training; Empower website not yet updated the website
 - ii. Process for policy motion letters (see Addendum A)
 - Much discussion about proposed process—timing of actions, role of the committee; referred to Elections & Bylaws Committee to tweak.
 - Bill will request permission for Melissa (BOD Secretary) to post to council files on city’s website
 - b. First Vice Chair – Mitchell Rische
 - c. Second Vice Chair – John Kuchta
 - MVCC website
 - John is getting list of approved contractors from Empower; then will put changes to make it easier to use out to bid. Those wanting changes should write them out and submit to John; include screen shots.
 - Bill Scheduling: BOD should vet list of changes before it goes out to bid
 - d. Secretary –Melissa Stoller
 - e. Treasurer-William Scheduling: NOTE: All funding motions must conform to all Empower funding guidelines and must be funded and paid in fiscal year 2014-15 or they will expire. All NPG and CIG grants approved by the Mar Vista Community Council are restricted funds according to Department of Neighborhood Empowerment regulations and must be used for the exact purpose approved by the MVCC. All Neighborhood Council Funding reports are available online at <http://done.lacity.org/onlinefunding/ncfunding.aspx>
 - There are all new paperwork requirements for MER.
 - Motion to take all funding motions on consent by Bill Scheduling, John Kutchka 2nd. Bill Koontz asked to pull out item 6.e.ii. Motion to pull January MER from consent calendar carried unanimously.
 - Discussion of education funding measures:
 - Ken Aprin commended Education Committee and asked if there’s anything else Sara Roos feels we should be funding—anything she will have regrets about later. Response: “No, they will come back later.”
 - Valerie Davidson wants to know if we’ve received photos/acknowledgement of prior education funds spent; expressed that it’s nice to have something from schools after funded project is completed and know it has a plaque on it—kids at BOD meeting, photos. Sara Roos pledges to bring back news & evidence

- Sara Roos sent invitation to all 16 public schools in Mar Vista; 9 submitted funding requests and gave presentations. The committee discussed and prioritized the requests at its following meeting.
- Mitch Rishe wants to know if we are making sure that, over time, funding is equal.
- **CONSENT:** Motion to approve all funding requests except 6.e.ii by Bill Scheduling, 2nd by John Kutcha. Motion carried unanimously.
 - i. **APPROVAL** of December MER
 - ii. **APPROVAL** of January MER
 - Motion to approve by Bill Scheduling, 2nd John Kutcha
 - Discussion:
 - Overdraft explanation: we were dinged for going over Empower limit, then undinged
 - MVCC has \$30,000 to spend by June
 - Valerie Davidson requested inclusion of more descriptions on funding sheet
 - Motion carries unanimously
 - iii. **Funding Motion: Spring GGS Newsletter, Layout Of Camera Ready Copy**
Tickled Plum, not to exceed \$375 (15 hours at \$25 per hour)
 - iv. **Funding Motion: Spring GGS Newsletter, Printing**
Pacific Rim, \$4000
Next year: ask Pacific Rim if they're doing printing, or farming it out
 - v. **Funding Motion: Spring GGS Newsletter, Distribution**
CBS Adv. Distributors, \$1700
 - vi. **Funding Motion (Green): Green Garden Showcase**
The Mar Vista Community Council authorizes \$300 in support of the Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase for the following expenditures -
 - \$50 - Bamboo poles (for flags)
 - \$150 Food, paper goods and utensils for Garden Hosts Welcome Event
 - \$100 Marketing materials
 - vii. **Funding Motion (Green): portable laptop battery charger**
The Mar Vista Community Council authorizes the expenditure of up to \$350 to purchase 17W Solar Charger Kit (<http://www.voltaicsystems.com/17-watt-kit>) and a 10' extension cord from Voltaic. The kit includes a solar panel and battery capable of charging laptops and tablets. It will be used for presentations/displays at the Green Tent as well as at Showcase Central. And be available for use by other MVCC events.
 - viii. **Funding Motion (EXFIN): Budget Fund Transfer**
Transfer \$3000 from the Community Improvement Grant budget to Neighborhood Purpose Grants
 - ix. **Funding Motion (EAC): Venice High School Neighborhood Purpose Grant**
Wireless printer and ink for mobile language lab, \$360.69
 - x. **Funding Motion (EAC): Beethoven Elementary School Neighborhood Purpose Grant**
\$2000 to encourage STEM:
 - Storage unit for specialized science program, "Trash for Teaching," materials: \$1250
 - Professional development materials, \$750
 - xi. **Funding Motion (EAC): Walgrove Elementary School Neighborhood Purpose Grant**
"Seussical" production costs: \$1,640
 - xii. **Funding Motion (EAC): Mar Vista Elementary School Neighborhood Purpose Grant**
Purchase and processing of 55 library-bound books for school library, \$980.20

- xiii. **Funding Motion (EAC): Palms Middle School Neighborhood Purpose Grant**
Irrigation installation and repairs for large garden project, \$2,000
 - xiv. **Funding Motion (EAC): Mark Twain Middle School Neighborhood Purpose Grant**
Portable PA system for use at school and community events, \$1,000
 - xv. **Funding Motion (EAC): Richland Elementary School Neighborhood Purpose Grant**
Six thermoplastic benches, \$3000
 - xvi. **Funding Motion (Outreach):**
Four ads in the Mar Vista Neighborhood Association newsletter over the course of 2015, \$120
- f. Mar Vista Bi Monthly LADOT/CD11/LAPD Traffic Committee Liaison - Linda Guagliano
 - New LAPD representative officer Martin Barocio attended 1st meeting of year. The meeting mostly handled leftovers from November meeting.
 - New signs at Farmers' Market are slowly being put up.
 - Next meeting is March 18; agenda closes Saturday before.
 - g. DWP MOU/LANCC Liaison-Open
 - h. DWP Recycled Water Liaison-Christopher McKinnon www.ladwp.com/recycledwater
 - i. Fall Festival Liaison-Albert Olson/Yvette Molinaro
 - j. City Budget: John Kuchta
 - Budget Forum 2.0 is coming soon; press release will be on website shortly
 - k. Recode LA: Sharon Commins
 - Presentation on mansionization ordinance at January meeting (Council File 14-0656): Mansionization linked with recode effort; planners want more flavors of residential zones; 17 neighborhoods being studied for possible changes (Mar Vista is one)
 - Transit neighborhood plans are not part of recode; they will be approved first, and folded in later/ The are concerns about size and density (over-densification); MVCC Zone 2 is in Sepulveda Expo station zone.
 - l. Mar Vista Chamber of Commerce: Sarah Auerswald
 - February monthly coffee is 3rd Thursday, 9:30 A.M., at Coffee Connection. Debbie Rocklin will give presentation about tax preparation
 - Evening meeting on March 2nd, 6:00–8:00 P.M.: Great Streets presentation
 - Membership drive starts March 1.
 - Rustic Kitchen is opening on Centinela near Palms.
 - Several new restaurants are opening on Washington Blvd near Wade.
 - Carving Board is opening on Gateway, west of Barrington.
7. **Zone Director Reports** - may include motions to refer action items to the appropriate MVCC committee where desirable; Public comment permitted)
- a. Zone 1 – Ken Alpern
 - Palms Emergency Preparedness Committee, meets 2nd Tuesday of month, Rob Kadota is attending
 - Expo Phase II will have pre-operational trains running toward end of this year.
 - There are concerns about Pico overdevelopment.
 - Paul Koretz is speaking to the Westside Village Homeowners Association
 - b. Zone 2 – Brad Wilhite
 - Meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 P.M., at St. Andrews Church to discuss traffic in our area.
 - c. Zone 3 – Bill Scheduling
 - Hilltop is putting \$60,000 into North Venice trailer that holds emergency supplies.
 - Reports of people walking around and trying door handles on cars.
 - d. Zone 4 - Michael Millman
 - Debbie Rochlin is chairing MVNA block party, June 7, on Barry.

- Taking on 43 fractured/collapsed sidewalks, will get that resolved.
 - Looking at parking configuration at/near Mar Vista Lanes.
 - PLUM: was lied to about Mar Vista Lanes sign; sign may come up for approval again.
- e. Zone 5 – Michelle Krupkin
- Grandview Market is getting stock from now closed Venice Ranch.
 - At least 3 crime reports on North Park: people knocking on door with folded paper (no clipboard).
 - Oliver complex next to Payless on Marcasel is nearing completion; retail on bottom, residential above.
- f. Zone 6 – Valerie Davidson
- Some burglaries; “knock-knockers” are coming around.
 - airline pilots association is suing 11 people to recover attorney fees.
 - Lots of traffic accidents, people upset about not getting help on Walgrove-Rose corridor.
8. **Committee Reports & Consent Calendar** - Actx where desirable(public comment permitted, 1 min per speaker unless waived by the Chair); items may be received and filed by consent if no discussion or public comment
- Motion to take all Green Committee motions (8.d) on consent by Bill Koontz; consent motion carried unanimously.
 - Motion to approve Green Committee motions by Bill Scheduling carried unanimously.
- a. **Executive & Finance Committee** - Bill Koontz, Chair
- b. **GGs 2015 AD HOC Committee** - Shelley Wiseman, Chair
- c. **Recreation Open Space Enhancement Committee** – Jerry Hornof & Tom Ponton, Co-Chairs
- d. **Green Committee** – Melissa Stoller, Jeanne Kuntz and Sherri Akers, Co-Chairs
- i. **Motion supporting Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones**
 The Mar Vista Community Council supports Councilmember Filipe Fuentes and Curren Price’s Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones motion (Addendum B). In addition to encouraging productive uses for vacant land, the implementation of Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones in the city would also increase access to fruits and vegetables in areas that currently lack fresh foods. ***The Mar Vista Community Council requests that the motion be amended to strongly encourage the use of organic and sustainable growing practices and that it require that GMO seeds and plants be banned.***
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 - ii. **Motion regarding Sustainable Landscaping at LADWP and LA City facilities**
 The Mar Vista Community Council notes that the lawn at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) facility at the intersection of Venice and McLaughlin has been replaced with artificial turf, non-native plants and without any grading for rainwater capture. As recent news coverage of L.A. rains showed, one inch of rain generates 8 billion gallons of runoff in the City. This urban runoff is the #1 source of ocean pollution, and could be a valuable source of irrigation, groundwater recharge, and enhancing stream flows. Also, landscapes with living soil can help sequester carbon (http://e360.yale.edu/feature/soil_as_carbon_storehouse_new_weapon_in_climate_fight/2744/). Artificial turf compacts and kills soil microbiology, generating runoff and providing no carbon sequestering benefit. It also creates rather than mitigates the heat island effect caused by the changing climate. LADWP’s own turf replacement rebate (https://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/faces/ladwp/aboutus/a-water/a-w-conservation/a-w-c-landscap?_adf.ctrl-state=qhcmd28t2_4&_afLoop=1033234959869636) “encourages” use of “California Friendly© plants, mulch, and permeable pathways,” though does not require grading for rainwater capture as well as use of climate-appropriate plants, mulch and efficient irrigation. Native plants provide a much needed habitat for local birds, pollinators and wildlife which should be encouraged.

The Mar Vista Community Council requests that as lawns are replaced at LADWP facilities, and all other LA City facilities, they be required to retrofit following the watershed approach. The watershed approach:

- Uses rainwater as a source of irrigation;
- Creates permeable, living soil using natural woodchip mulch or leaf litter, and permeable hardscaping;
- Utilizes climate-appropriate plants and drip irrigation.

While the City is urging homeowners and businesses to replace turf lawn with sustainable alternatives, it is imperative that the LADWP and the City of Los Angeles utilize this opportunity to set an example by re-landscaping to conserve and capture water while creating a habitat that fosters the pollinators needed to support our ecosystem. Such landscaping will serve to promote environmental awareness and responsible landscaping choices by others in a highly visible setting and will ultimately save the city money in water usage, maintenance, and prevention of storm water runoff fines.

We stand ready to provide contacts and resource information as needed for assistance.

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- e. **Transportation & Infrastructure Committee** – Ken Alpern & Michelle Krupkin, Co-Chairs
- f. **Planning and Land Use Management Committee** - Steve Wallace & Mitchell Rishe, Co-Chairs, Michael Millman Vice-Chair
- g. **Education, Arts and Culture Committee** – Brad Wilhite, Co-chair Sara Roos, Co-Chair
 - i. **Motion Supporting a French Immersion Program at Richland**

In order to cultivate political support for Mar Vista's reputation among young families as a community with excellent public education, the Education, Arts and Culture Committee, working with Richland Avenue Elementary School principal Gerard Granade, shall draft a letter to Steve Zimmer, LAUSD Board of Education member for District 4, and Mike Bonin, Los Angeles City Council District 11 councilmember, articulating a public interest in supporting a French Immersion program at Richland.

 - The following revised motion was submitted:
Send the following letter of support to Zimmer and others on LAUSD Board when the French Immersion Program at Richland comes on agenda (probably March):
Dear Board Member Zimmer,
The Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) appreciates recent efforts to articulate coherent instructional pathways throughout our "VenMar Family of Schools". We support your initiative to sustain our strong climate of multiculturalism and language learning in the community. Spanish, Mandarin and German dual-language immersion programs on the westside are enormously popular, and we are excited about the way these excellent learning models enhance the quality of life in Mar Vista.
Consequently we are eager to see the French Immersion program proposed for Richland Avenue Elementary find favor with LAUSD. Already more than fifty families have expressed a firm interest in the program; there is little question it would be popular. We consider the prospect of attracting young families by these pedagogically superior programs, as well as the presence of these families in our midst to be so beneficial for life in Mar Vista as to outweigh whatever logistical impediments might challenge the program's implementation.
Thank you for doing whatever it takes to initiate Richland ES' proposed French Immersion program.
 - Motion to approve motion as revised by Bill Koontz, Bill Scheduling 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.
- h. **Santa Monica Airport Committee** – Valerie Davidson, co-chair Martin Rubin, Co-Chair
- i. **Safety and Security Committee** – Rob Kadota, Chair
- j. **Historic FS 62 Ad Hoc Committee** – Rachel Swanger & Roy Persinko, Co-Chairs

- k. **Community Outreach Committee** – Sarah Auerswald, Co-Chair, John Kuchta, Co-Chair
- l. **Elections and By-laws**- Bill Scheduling, chair
- m. **Great Streets Ad Hoc Committee** – Michelle Krupkin, chair
- n. **Aging in Place Ad Hoc**- Sherri Akers, Co-chair, Robin Doyno Co-Chair

- -Next meeting is February 19. Guest speaker: affordable housing for seniors.

9. **Discussion Calendar**

10. **Unfinished Business** - Action items held over from previous meeting (Public comment permitted)

11. **New Business** -(Public comment permitted)

12. **Grievances**, if any, received

13. **Future agenda items**

14. **Public Comment**

- Sherri Akers: The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance has representatives from 6 of the 12 regions; representatives from 9 Neighborhood Councils are on the steering committee. It looks like NCSA will have a strong launch. NCSA will replicate citywide what MVCC Green Committee has accomplished.
- Robin Doyno requests volunteers to email him to sign up for 1st or 2nd shift at MVCC table; Doodle will be up soon

15. **Adjournment**

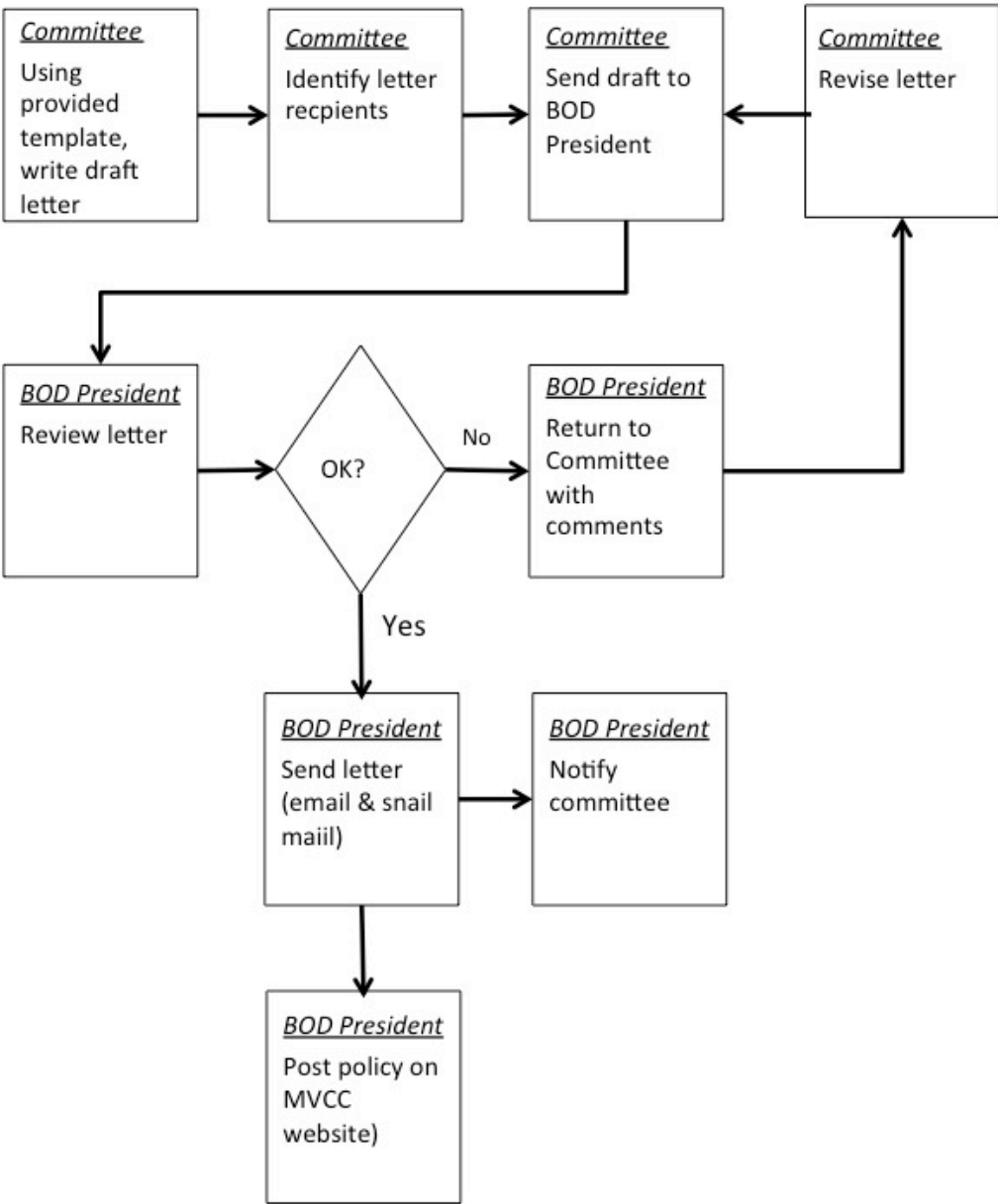
Meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M.

* *In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at <http://www.marvista.org> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact secretary@marvista.org.*

** *As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or any auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting chair@marvista.org.*

Addendum A

Policy Motion Process



Addendum B

14-1378

Motion

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

The *Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act*, AB 551 (Ting), encourages the development of vacant, unproductive land for growing food.

AB 551 allows cities, with approval from the county board of supervisors, to designate Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones. Within these zones, property owners who allow their land to be used for agriculture purposes for a minimum of five years can receive a property tax adjustment; their land would be reassessed at the average statewide irrigated agriculture lands rate.

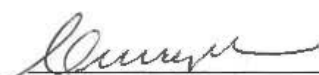
The property tax adjustment is intended to incentivize landowners who are not utilizing their property to make it available for urban agriculture. Parcels would be eligible for the incentive if they are between 0.10 and 3 acres in size, dedicated to agriculture or animal husbandry, free of dwellings not intended for agriculture or educational purposes, and located within a zone that allows for agricultural use.

In addition to encouraging productive uses for vacant land, the implementation of Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones in the city would also increase access to fruits and vegetables in areas that currently lack fresh foods. More than 40% of low-income adults in Los Angeles County are food insecure and more than 60% of adults are obese or overweight, according to the Los Angeles Food Policy Council's October 2013 Los Angeles Food System Snapshot.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council instruct the Department of City Planning and the Department of Building and Safety, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare and present an ordinance establishing Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones, and which includes the following:

1. Designate the boundaries of one or more Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones within the city and clarify zoning where food growing operations are allowed.
2. Develop a process by which the City can determine property owners' eligibility and by which property owners can apply for the incentive.
3. Develop an enforcement mechanism to ensure property owners are following local, county, and state regulations for Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones.
4. Coordinate with the County of Los Angeles the approval, establishment, and implementation of Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones as required by AB 551 (Ting), the *Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act*.

PRESENTED BY: 
FELIPE FUENTES
Councilmember, 7th District


CURREN PRICE
Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY: 


OCT - 8 2014

ORIGINAL