

Dear ...

The city has been for some months working on a plan behind towards the overall vision and dreams for Los Angeles. Much of this has been done behind closed doors. This General Plan is expected to be presented to the public and Neighborhood Councils sometime this fall and with little or no impact from those who it will ultimately affect.

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";

Los Angeles is decades behind other Western U.S. cities in updating these far-reaching plans, necessitating that the City involve its citizens in a General Plan Update process that starts from the ground up;

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

It is widely agreed the public cannot fully participate in General Plan Updating meetings, hearings and debates during the day downtown;

Closed-door meetings on fundamental debates about our goals for updating of the General Plan can only create more distrust and dismay over the broken planning system. Who, for example, are the experts invited to the fast-approaching closed-door meetings on the "Community Assets" Element of the General Plan, if not the communities themselves?

Therefore, we request:

- All Planning Department Work Group meetings about our shared ideas and ideals for the 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 Open Space Work Group meetings, three of which were completed in closed-door sessions, three additional Open Space meetings be held that follow the prescription in this paragraph.

We further request, in the same vein:

-- 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.

Sincerely,

Harold "Mac" McCarthy, Secretary  
Westlake North Neighborhood Council