



Mr. Vince Berotoni
City of Los Angeles Planning Department
Director
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(VIA EMAIL)

RE: District Square Development at 3650 Crenshaw Blvd

Dear Mr. Bertoni:

I write regarding the District Square development project at 3650 Crenshaw Blvd. Despite being active participants in the City's hearings, which occurred on or about 2010 at the City Planning Commission for the then design of the project, our organization's only notice regarding the current design and project application occurred because of the disturbing article that was published in yesterday's Los Angeles Times titled, *South L.A. was Promised a Target. Millions of Dollars Later, it has a Vacant Lot.* The project address and site has not changed and the developer has not changed, yet we were never noticed of the design changes and the Planning Department's review of the current project application. This is a violation of the spirit, intent and language of development project application notice/disclosure laws and guidelines.

We are particularly troubled by this violation given the corrupt developer's attempt to fast-track the new design without any environmental review via powers granted by the new state law SB 743. The application and standards for City Planning Department review for projects seeking to utilize SB 743 remain unclear to this organization and I imagine most members of the public. Issuing a determination letter prior to providing the public with an explanation of the City's standard of review for SB 743 projects, and without providing the public with an opportunity to comment, would violate due process requirements and basic civic engagement and major policy implementation principles.

Despite just learning of the new design and project application yesterday, our organization and others have quickly acted to attempt to address the need to maintain neighborhood stability and to see additional housing developed at the transit-adjacent site. In the interim, **it is incumbent on your office and we are requesting you:**

- 1) **Halt any issuance of a determination letter for this project;**
- 2) **Formally notice all members of the public who engaged in the City's approval process for previous designs of the project, of the new design and application;**
- 3) **Provide the community along and 1-mile adjacent to the Crenshaw Specific Plan with a public explanation of the City Planning Department's SB 743 guidelines, and an opportunity to work with your office to ensure they are appropriately implemented.** (We and allies of our coalition would be happy to host you within the next couple of months at a community meeting.)

We hope that you will adopt our request. The need to implement the foregoing is essential given the deeply troubling facts alleged in the LA Times article, which raise many uncomfortable questions for the City. Transparency, public notice, and providing the Crenshaw community with an opportunity to comment on the City's SB 743 policy implementation is required for this project, lest it move forward under the dark cloud that

currently surrounds it. Should the project move forward under current circumstances, I worry about what may occur.

Finally, please add our organization to the notice list for the project and any subsequent project designs and applications.

Sincerely,

/S/

Damien Goodmon
Executive Director

CC: LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
LA City Council President Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
LA City Council PLUM Committee Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson
LA City Economic & Workforce Development Director John Reamer, Jr.
Crenshaw Specific Plan Design Review Board