



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
March 27, 2008**

The Special Meeting of the City Council of Beverly Hills was held in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmember Delshad, Councilmember Krasne, Councilmember Briskman, Vice Mayor Fenton, and Mayor Brucker
Absent: None

B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. TELEPHONE CALL-IN (310.285.1020) (Members of the public are invited to place telephone calls to comment on issues that do not appear on the evening's agenda. The City Council will take up to three telephone calls per meeting. Comments on the evening's agenda must be made in person as the item comes before the City Council.)

None

2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS. Any person wishing to address the City Council on any matter not on the agenda may do so at this time. However, the State open meetings law (Government Code Section 54950 et seq.) prohibits the City Council from providing a detailed response or acting upon any item not contained on the agenda posted 72 hours before a regular meeting and 24 hours before a special meeting. If you wish to address the City Council at this time, please complete a speaker's card and give it to the City Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting. Please use the microphone provided, clearly stating your name for the official record and courteously limiting your remarks to three (3) minutes so others may have the opportunity to speak as well.

1. Nooshin Meshkaty spoke about future development in the City and the needs of the children and the schools.

2. Cindy Dubin spoke about concerns for the schools and the children, and how the two mitigation plans will work.
3. John A. Mirisch spoke about the various recommendations from the Planning Commission, City Council and the community.
4. Ray Flade spoke about taking projects to the community for approval.
5. Donna Flade spoke about public safety personnel in terms of additional growth.
6. Martin Geimer announced that 85,023 people have completed the Beverly Hills CPR program.

C. PUBLIC HEARING

TO SET:

None

TO CONSIDER:

This being the time and place set, a continued public hearing was held to consider:

1. CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF A GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT, ZONE TEXT AMENDMENT, ZONE CHANGE, SPECIFIC PLAN, DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR A PROPOSED MIXED USE PROJECT AT 9876 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD (THE BEVERLY HILTON REVITALIZATION PROJECT). Comment: The proposed project is located on an approximate 8.9-acre site at the intersection of Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards and is currently developed with the Beverly Hilton and ancillary facilities. The proposed project would include redevelopment and reconfiguration of the site by adding 30 poolside guestrooms to the Beverly Hilton hotel as well as new hotel support, retail, and office facilities, a conference room, outdoor landscaped areas, a new five-star 140 room Waldorf Astoria Hotel and a separate 60-unit condominium building. Parking would be provided in a subterranean garage with 1,733 spaces. This hearing is continued from the Tuesday, March 25, 2008 Special Meeting.

The notice of the hearing was given as required by law and affidavit to this effect is on file with the City Clerk.

The report of the Director of Community Development and the records of the Planning Department in this matter are made a part of the record of this hearing.

Planning Commission Chair Noah Furie spoke in support of the project as recommended by the Commission. Chair Furie noted the revisions to the project made by the applicant that are before the Council this evening, and explained why the Commission does not agree with the changes. Mr. Furie recommended the Council approve the project as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Vice Chair Planning Commissioner Kathy Reims spoke about the Commission's minority opinion regarding free employee parking on site at the project.

Corinne Verdery, representing the applicant, requested that all supporters of the project stand and be recognized.

Speaking:

1. Fred Hayman spoke in support of the project and complimented Mr. Alagem for bringing this project forward.
2. Marjorie Pressman expressed support of the project.
3. Rabbi Jacob Pressman spoke of current trends in development and explained why it is important to support this project.
4. Radha Aurora expressed his support of the Revitalization project.
5. Dr. Alfred Cohen stated why this project should be supported.
6. Maria Elena Durazo, Los Angeles Federation of Labor, commented that many employees at the Beverly Hilton have worked there for many decades and what a unique employer the Hilton is.
7. Pavis Nazarian, accompanied by his wife, spoke in support of the project.
8. Susan Mishler stated she is opposed to the project as it has been presented, but not opposed to revitalization.
9. Larry Larson, speaking on behalf of the Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association, spoke in opposition to the Hilton expansion.
10. Christopher Biehl expressed his concerns related to development.
11. Jeffrey Best expressed support of the Beverly Hilton Revitalization Plan.
12. Renato Romano stated this is an important project for the City of Beverly Hills and expressed his support.
13. Andy Cohen, President of Gensler Architects, spoke in support of the project.

14. Eliot Finkel, City Treasurer, spoke about preserving the City's commercial properties, and supports the Waldorf Astoria project.
15. Ari Rosenblatt spoke about the opportunity to retain baby boomers living in Beverly Hills by building condominium projects that allow them to downsize and remain in Beverly Hills.
16. Renee Mizrahi raised concerns regarding parking in the evenings.
17. Curtis Davis, employee at the Beverly Hilton for 35 years, spoke in support of the project.
18. Taura Mizrahi, spoke about traffic concerns and asked for a revitalization plan within the current code.
19. Anna Cortez, employee at the hotel for 18 years, stated she supports the project.
20. Vivien Benjamin stated she is concerned about traffic and congestion.
21. Jeff Hyland spoke to the benefits of this project to the City.
22. Marilyn Gallup read comments on behalf of Joy and Milt Shefter.
23. Menachem Trelvash spoke in support of the project.
24. Lee Pasterak read comments from Ruth Kraft.
25. Bruce Howard spoke in favor of the project.
26. Bill Schwarz, Chairman of the Board of Wilshire Realty Company, expressed support for the project.
27. Herb Reston spoke about traffic, dedicated bus lanes, subway to the sea, Olympic/Pico traffic flow and light rail.
28. Roger Berhstock spoke about the uniqueness of the site and supports the project.
29. Anita Zussman Eddy, Vice President of Economic Development for the Chamber of Commerce, explained why the Chamber of Commerce supports the Beverly Hilton Revitalization Plan.
30. Donna Powell stated she supports the project.
31. Nancy Barth voiced concerns about traffic and parking.
32. Estela Rivardo recommended approval of the project.
33. Rudy Durand spoke fondly about his Beverly Hilton experiences.

34. Ilona Sherman spoke in support of the project.
35. Mary Levin Cutler voiced concerns about the City's infrastructure.
36. Frida Glucoft spoke in support of the project, revenues and the green spaces proposed.
37. Alex Solomon spoke in total support of the Hilton project.
38. Adrea Caren spoke about building a large project on a site her family owns.
39. Jonathan Bloch spoke in support of the project.
40. Carol Ward would like to know if speakers live in Beverly Hills or other cities, countries.
41. Ann Istrin stated she supports the Beverly Hilton project.
42. Marty Geimer spoke in favor of the restoration.
43. Arthur Kassel spoke in support of the project.
44. Marie Franz Salaun spoke in support of the project.
45. Roger Gaon spoke in support of the hotel project.
46. Natasha spoke in support of the project.
47. John Mirisch spoke about the project in business terms.

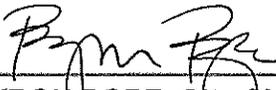
D. OTHER BUSINESS

None

E. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Brucker, with the consent of Council, adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m. and continued it to Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted
this 20th day of May, 2008.



BYRON POPE, City Clerk

BARRY BRUCKER, MAYOR

This meeting was broadcast on live television, on City of Beverly Hills municipal government television access Channel BHN/10 Time Warner Cable.