

March 28, 2007

To: Sunshine Reform Task Force

From: Ken Podgorsek, Ed Rast, Bob Brownstein (Public Meetings Committee)

Re: Public Meeting and Items of Significant Community Interest

We would like to recommend that language be added to the proposed Sunshine Ordinance in the Public Meetings section guaranteeing that decisions on Items of Significant Community Interest, as defined in Council Policy 630, can be appealed to the City Council.

This issue is mostly related to land use items but may also apply to City policy and development issues. Most of the issues that are of Significant Community Interest are heard by the City Council already, but not all. We would like to close this loophole and make all decisions on items of Significant Community Interest appealable to the City Council.

Both those who support a project and those who oppose a project should have the right to appeal a decision by a department head and/or a commission if they should so choose. The final decision on Items of Significant Community Interest should not reside with either a commission or a department head. It should be made by an elected body if the parties should so choose.