



UPTOWN PLANNERS

1010 University Avenue, PMB 1781
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 231-4495

June 2, 2009

Re: **Memorandum – “Final Draft of a Community Plan Preparation Manual”**

To the Honorable Planning Commission,
City of San Diego:

This letter is written to state the official position of the Uptown Planners, the recognized community planning committee for the Uptown Planning District, concerning the above listed Memorandum received by the Uptown Planners, along with every community planning group located in the City of Diego, on March 17, 2009, which is:

A. City of San Diego Council Policy No. 600-24

According to City of San Diego Council Policy No. 600-24:

1. “Community Planning Groups have been formed to make recommendations to the City ... specifically concerning the preparation, adoption, implementation of, or amendment to the General Plan,” and
2. “The City does not direct or recommends the election of specified individual planning group members, nor does the City appoint members to planning groups, or recommend removal of individual members of a planning group.”

B. Memorandum violates Council Policy No. 600-24

The above-listed Memorandum properly sets forth that the Uptown Planners, along with every community planning group in the City of San Diego, shall form “*Community Plan Update Advisory Sub-Committees*” to focus on the community plan update as is permitted in Council Policy No. 600-24. However, it is the determination of the Uptown Planners Board that the Memorandum clearly violates Council Policy No. 600-24 where Planning Staff is attempting to dictate who shall comprise this newly formed subcommittee. Planning Staff has stated that 1) the subcommittee needs “to have balanced representation and include both elected members of the community planning group as well as non-members who wish to participate in the plan update.” Further,

Planning Staff has also decided that it is “unable to support CPG veto rights over non-CPG seats, and as such the non-CPG seats “will be selected by either a lottery monitored by CPCI or by council member appointment.” Since Council Policy N0. 600-24 clearly states that the City “does not direct or recommends the election of specified individual planning group members, nor does the City appoint members to planning groups,” the Planning Staff’s recommendation how this newly formed Subcommittee has been rejected by the Uptown Planners Board.

C. Uptown Planners approves establishment of *ad hoc* “Community Plan Advisory Subcommittee”

In order to fully comply with Council Policy No. 600-24 the Uptown Planning Board refers to Roberts Rules of Order, which state: “When an assembly has to consider a subject which it does not wish to refer to a committee, and yet where the subject matter is not well digested and put into proper form for its definite action, or when, for any other reason, it is desirable for the assembly to consider a subject with all the freedom of an ordinary committee, it is the practice to refer the matter to the “Committee of the Whole.” The “Committee of the Whole” is a very common practice, used to facilitate discussion and streamline administrative procedures that are ideally suited to serve the functions contemplated by the draft Community Plan Update Manual. The San Diego City Council, of course, routinely sits as the committee of the whole to facilitate discussion in accordance with the Permanent Rules of Council and report recommend action to the Council sitting itself. There is simply no good reason to ignore a traditional, well understood, and very workable committee of the whole procedure in order to embrace an advisory committee approach to the Community Planning process that is in complete violation of Council Policy No. 600-24, untried and likely to produce unintended consequences.

As such, in order to ensure that it fully complies with City of San Diego Council Policy No. 600-24, Uptown Planners Bylaws, as well as Roberts Rules of Order concerning the request by Planning Staff to establish a new subcommittee to focus on the community plan update, the Uptown Planners has voted _____ to approve the following:

1. Establishing an *ad hoc* “Community Plan Update Advisory Subcommittee” as the best way to facilitate its collaboration with the City, affected stakeholder groups, and members of the Uptown community in the Community Plan Update process;
2. The newly formed Advisory Subcommittee should exist for the duration of the Community Plan Update process, functioning as an Uptown Planners “committee of the whole”;
3. The Advisory Subcommittee would consist of all of the elected members of Uptown Planners, and would obviate the need for any form separate an advisory committee established by the City;
4. The Advisory Subcommittee meeting will occur once a month immediately following the General Meeting of the Uptown Planners, so as to promote

more community involvement by not having an additional meeting date to attend.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Wilson,
Chair