



Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

22 March 2018

Los Angeles City Council Rules Committee

Hon. Herb J. Wesson, Jr., Chair; Hon. Jose Huizar and Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Re: CF 18-0002-S13; Item No. 11 on 3/23/18 Rules Committee agenda/Resolution (Ryu-Wesson) in opposition to SB 827 (Wiener)

Dear Rules Committee Chair Wesson and Members Huizar and Harris-Dawson:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a coalition of all 13 neighborhood and community councils in Council Districts 5 and 11. A supermajority of WRAC member-councils (11 of 13)¹ have passed, in substance, the following motion in opposition to the proposed the Transit-Rich Housing Bonus Bill (Wiener – SB 827):

“i. Whereas the City Charter-mandated Neighborhood Council system of Los Angeles, and the Community Councils of the City of Los Angeles, represent grass roots democracy,

ii. Whereas the newly introduced California State Senate Bill 827 [Scott Wiener] as written constitutes a top down pen stroke planning measure which completely removes land use and planning authority within one half mile of high quality transit from jurisdictions and charter cities,

iii. Whereas removal of said authority clearly abolishes local input into land use planning and therefore constitutes an attack upon local democracy, upon neighborhoods, and upon the Neighborhood Councils and Community Councils in the City of Los Angeles,

¹The motion in opposition was passed by all 11 WRAC members who considered the issue to date; the remaining two members are expected to consider the motion in the coming weeks.

iv. Whereas SB 827 as written trashes the density bonus and wage provisions of the JJJ TOC ordinance which were recently enacted by the people of Los Angeles -- in good faith -- in order to guarantee transit close housing opportunities would actually be available to working and low-income persons and families in the City of Los Angeles,

v. Whereas the lack of analysis of infrastructure and other costs associated with this pen stroke planning creates grave uncertainty that a local agency would be able to “levy enough service charges, fees or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code,”

vi. Whereas, given the aforementioned lack of fiscal analysis, Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution “No reimbursement” clause is cited inappropriately in this legislation,

vii. Therefore, [WRAC] opposes SB 827 in its present form.”

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) passed additional language requesting SB 827 be withdrawn and calling upon “the City of Los Angeles, through its official representatives, to vigorously oppose SB 827 and protect local authority and control over land use and planning.”

It is the consensus of WRAC leadership as expressed at the regular monthly public WRAC meeting on March 21, 2018, that subsequent proposed amendments to SB 827 do not change the fundamental fatal flaws of the bill and do nothing to alter the fact that it is a usurping of the city’s traditional role in city planning, it is an attack on the ability of communities to manage the growth of neighborhoods in a manner that is consistent with local input, and it is an attack upon the principle of local control. It should be vigorously opposed by the City of Los Angeles.

WRAC therefore strongly urges the Rules Committee to recommend that the full City Council, 1) take up this matter at the earliest possible time and, 2) adopt the proposed resolution in opposition to SB 827 (Ryu-Wesson) in CF 18-0002-S13.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maryam Zar
Vice-Chair, Westside Regional Alliance of Councils
(Acting Chair)
Chair, Pacific Palisades Community Council

cc:

Hon. David Ryu, Councilmember, CD4

Hon. Paul Koretz, Councilmember, CD5

Hon. Mike Bonin, Councilmember, CD11

Doug Fitzsimmons, Chair, WRAC, and President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

Richard Williams, Legislative Assistant, **w/request for filing in CF 18-0002-S13.**