

Fritzal, Kellee

From: Richardson Gray [richardson.gray@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2013 7:54 AM
To: Fritzal, Kellee
Subject: My Public Comments for September 12th Downtown Task Force Meeting

Hi Kellee,

Please pass along this email to all of the members, alternates, and City personnel participants for the Downtown Task Force, so that they can consider my public comments before their September 12th meeting. Too, please let me know before the meeting how much time that I will have to speak. Finally, please send me a brief email reply to let me know that you have received this email in good order, and that you will be able to circulate it in time.

At the meeting in which the City Council authorized this Task Force, I asked the Council to include seven resident members, so that the number of resident members would equal the number of members representing Downtown's business interests. I made this recommendation, as well, with the view that the Council's resident selections would represent purely resident interests, and not some mix of business and resident interests.

My recommendation was based on the idea that Downtown's established, surrounding, affluent, and historic residential neighborhoods are equally important as Downtown's businesses. In this way, residents should have an equal voice with the businesses in the future directions of Downtown's commercial district.

Now that the Task Force has seven business members and five resident members, one of whom is a current Downtown business owner and a former leader of the Downtown Business Improvement District, I ask that the Task Force give resident votes greater weight in its recommendations to the Council. **I ask that the Task Force approve no recommendation to the Council unless a majority of the resident members voting on the issue vote in support of the recommendation.** Again, with this requirement, the residents will have an equal voice with the businesses on all Task Force recommendations.

In 2009, for the Downtown Image Ad Hoc Committee, I recommended at one of its meetings, to its Chair, former Council Member Don Hansen, that **the permanent Downtown Economic Development Committee should have an equal number of unofficial resident representatives as the number of unofficial business representatives that it has.** With this composition, the Committee should give resident interests equal weight to business interests in its deliberations, recommendations, and policy initiatives. I believe that this Committee now has no unofficial resident representatives, advocating solely for resident interests, and five unofficial business representatives. I understand that these five unofficial business representatives include one each from the Downtown Business Improvement District, the Marketing and Visitors Bureau, the Huntington Beach Restaurant Association, a Downtown special events and activities group, and the Strand.

When this Task Force is disbanded, I urge the Task Force to adopt this recommendation of mine from 2009. I think only this type of permanent solution will help fairly address resident concerns about our Downtown for the long term.

Thank you for considering my views. Good luck in your work to improve our Downtown, including our established, adjoining, affluent, and historic Downtown residential neighborhoods.

Richardson Gray
415 Townsquare Lane #208
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
714-348-1928 (cell)
richardson.gray@yahoo.com