

NLC Motion regarding Minor Code Amendments Process (MiCAP)

Adopted March 27, 2007 – 13 In favor; 0 Opposed ; 2 Abstained

The NLC finds the Minor Code Amendments Process process thus far has not provided adequate opportunities for citizens to become educated about and discuss potential amendments and the process for selecting and prioritizing proposed amendments.

The NLC recommends Planning Division staff take prompt action to assure citizens have adequate and timely information and assistance to be able to participate in the Minor Code Amendment Process in a well-informed manner. This should include the following:

1. Manage the proposed amendment "library" so it can be comprehended and used effectively by ordinary citizens. This includes indexing, multiple categorizations, and cross-referencing.
2. Provide a means for citizens to get answers to questions about specific proposed amendments.
3. Implement a mechanism to record and associate public comments on specific items so citizens can learn what other individuals and organizations have said about proposals.
4. Implement a similar mechanism for public comments on the proposed selection and prioritization schemes.
5. Provide adequate information, including proposals to be considered, well in advance of public meetings so citizens and community organizations can consider and discuss proposals *prior* to the meeting at which the proposals are considered.

The NLC recommends the April 5 Community Forum and the Planning Commission Roundtable scheduled to follow the April 5 Community Forum not be held until the public has had an adequate opportunity to review, and provide comments in response to, the information and assistance recommended above.

The NLC recommends the Planning Commission assign a high priority to the following categories of amendments proposed through the Minor Code Amendment Process:

- Amendments that improve the effectiveness of neighborhood resident and neighborhood association participation in land use approval and appeal processes.
- Amendments that address the negative impacts of incompatible infill.
- Amendments that protect natural resources, including amendments related to watershed and wetlands protection, storm water management, tree preservation, and other related areas.