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**From:** Mindala Wilcox [/O=INGLEWOOD/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B46BFD8A1E12482FB4F973BEA21D23C4-MINDALA WILCOX]  
**Sent:** 6/15/2020 6:48:38 PM  
**To:** naira@robertsilversteinlaw.com  
**CC:** Yvonne Horton [/o=Inglewood/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=112c1fcb52164d5d9721a08db5ba3485-Yvonne Horton]  
**Subject:** Special Accommodation Advance Request for June 17, 2020 Planning Commission Hearing (IBEC)

Naira Soghatyan, Esq.  
The Silverstein Law Firm, APC  
215 North Marengo Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Pasadena, CA 91101-1504

Dear Naira,

Thank you for email concerning the technical difficulties you experienced during the June 9, 2020 Council meeting regarding the proposed updates to the City of Inglewood General Plan, and the request for special accommodations for the upcoming June 17, 2020 Planning Commission hearing on the IBEC project.

As background, the City of Inglewood, like hundreds of other cities throughout California, has worked hard to continue providing essential City services during the prolonged State of Emergency that has occurred as a result of COVID-19. These efforts include making the City's public meeting accessible to members of the public telephonically and through other electronic means as authorized by Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20. The Governor's EO waived and suspended certain provisions of the Brown Act calling for in-person attendance at public meetings, and instead called for local jurisdictions to allow members of the public to remotely observe and participate in public meetings to allow public business to continue while still maintaining social distancing recommendations and practices. To implement the procedures as contemplated by EO N-29-20, the City has utilized a phone system operated by AT&T that we understand is widely used by local governments throughout the State of California. Indeed, this system has been used successfully by many members of the public to observe and participate in Inglewood's public meetings, including the June 9, 2020 meeting.

We acknowledge that the system did not work as smoothly as intended for some of the agenda items considered on June 9, 2020. This was inadvertent, and the City is committed to transparency and compliance with the Brown Act. As we have moved through the transition to a COVID-19-safer meeting format, we are doing our best to ensure robust public participation, and we regret that you as well as anyone else had difficulties accessing the meeting as you described in your email. As an illustration of the City's commitment to transparency and public participation, and as you no doubt are aware (because your colleague, Veronica Lebron has already raised objections about the City's proposal to re-do the General Plan hearing in response to your complaints), the City has agendized an item for the upcoming Council meeting to consider setting a new hearing on the General Plan updates in order to make sure that the public views are fully expressed prior to any action by the Council on the General Plan updates. At the same time, we do not have any indication (other than the generalized statement in your email) that there was a large number of people who were unable to utilize the phone system during the June 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. We of course invite you to provide further details for the basis of your belief that "there were more than 100 callers on June 9, 2020 who tried to call and participate." Further, the City Clerk's email listed in the agenda was open on-line and was called out by the Mayor during the meeting as an alternative means of participation. Perhaps it will alleviate your concerns to know that there were several emails that were also submitted and considered by the Council prior to taking action. While it is clear that there were telephonic challenges, other than your communication, we have not received any additional notification that one hundred (or any other large number) of callers were unable to get through.

Looking ahead, in view of the isolated technical difficulties we noticed on June 9<sup>th</sup> and without admission of any Brown Act violation on June 9, 2020 or any waiver of the City's rights whatsoever, please know that the City has already implemented additional steps to ensure that the City's remote access options are in good working order. These include

further training of City staff, additional communication with the telephone service provider, and proactive and real-time monitoring of the system's functionality. These steps will be implemented for members of the public going forward, including at the June 17, 2020 Planning Commission hearing on the separate IBEC project that you referenced in your email. Consistent with your email request, this publicly available system will give members of the public, including yourself, the opportunity to be heard, make comments by telephone, and to listen to public meetings without interruption.

Should you experience any unexpected technical difficulties during the June 17<sup>th</sup> hearing on the IBEC project, we urge you to immediately call (889) 796-6118 so that your questions can be addressed in real time.

Additionally, during the time that the COVID-19 related distancing recommendations remain in effect, please be aware that the City provides multiple alternative avenues for public participation during its public meetings in addition to the telephonic system discussed above so that the public can participate in a way most comfortable for them. These include:

- the opportunity to send email correspondence at any time prior to the close of the public hearing, which will be made part of the official record of the meeting;
- the opportunity to watch meetings on-line with audio and limited video; and
- the opportunity to watch live on Spectrum Cable Local 35.

Finally, we do not understand your email as a request of Special Accommodations due to a disability within the meaning of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. If we have misunderstood the nature of your request, please contact me directly at your earliest opportunity at either (310) 412-5230 of [mwilcox@cityofinglewood.org](mailto:mwilcox@cityofinglewood.org). In addition, as noted on the City's agendas, any person who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to observe and/or offer public comment may request such reasonable modification, accommodation, aid, or service by contacting the responsible City official on the applicable agenda.

In closing, we truly appreciate you reaching out to share your comments and trust that the above response addresses your request.

Respectfully,

**Mindy Wilcox, AICP** : Planning Manager : City of Inglewood

Economic and Community Development Department

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