

Diane Sambrano 3640 West 111<sup>th</sup> Place Inglewood, CA 90303

City of Inglewood
One West Manchester Boulevard 4<sup>th</sup> Floor
Planning Division
Inglewood, CA 90301

Re:

Inglewood (Clipper) Basketball and Entertainment Center Proposal

Notice of Preparation for Environmental Impact Report

There must be a reason so much money effort was spent to discourage public input about this project.

What may have been a simple response if it had been openly and honestly presented may serve as a lesson in "You should have let me talk 3 minutes". Oh well, those who work so very hard to avoid public input may want to reconsider in the future.

In the past 30 years Inglewood has been subjected to an assortment of "projects" which were glammed up, misrepresented, re-structured (back to what they claimed they would not be), pitched by non-resident alcohol-selling clergy members -adorned with collars and crosses, marketed as the means to solve the city council's financial mismanagement, hailed as "progressive" by Agenda 21 devotees, and even characterized as "world class" best practices to generate revenue! Each has cost the residents of this community dearly with the only ones to benefit being the developers who skip off to their non-local bank with the often tax-discounted or tax-deferred revenue which they then spend not in Inglewood for their own pleasures! Members of this community are left with traffic congestion, and diminished services (neighborhood roads unrepaired and making dodging potholes a daily adventure (Imperial Highway), previously free recreation programs either are no longer or require participation fees, a poorly maintained main library, shortened library hours, and a used only on rare occasion library, fewer Police officers—who do not take crime reports unless there is an injury (perhaps to make crime statistics look good), and selected neighborhoods have been demolished for the benefit of out-of-town developers.

Unfortunately the Proposed Murphy's Bowl LLC Project may be among the most self serving greedy, back-room and pathetic insults to Inglewood residents of all.

Clearly the proposed owner does not suffer a lack of resources! Those resources could have been used to make generous offers to the current property owners for whichever of the still non-published project plans are selected. Instead it seems that the proposed Basketball Arena Entertainment Center owner(s) chose to have council members and a senator threaten use of eminent domain and avoidance of public participation! The behind closed doors attempts to fast track this project and by-pass the resident input process wins this project the "New Low" Trophy.

Beginning with the lack of transparency suggests that either the developer or elected or both did not have confidence in the projects selling points based on its own merits or its potential for community enrichment. If they didn't think highly of it, why would anyone impacted think well of it?

Attempting to hide the project by not including it on a regularly scheduled council meeting agenda displays a planned attempt to keep the community unaware and unable to participate in the whole "one-minute comment period" allowed at public hearings conducted at council meetings. Failure to announce scoping meetings at the city council meeting or alerting the greater impacted community by mail appears to be a sick and pathetic but routine methodology of the current administrations attempts to avoid transparency in government as required by the Ralph M Brown Act.

## ALL ASPECTS OF THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE PUBLICLY PRESENTED IN COUNCIL MEETINGS WHEN THE GENERAL WORKING PUBLIC CAN ATTEND.

It appears that the current Mayor and "his team" may have attempted to avoid public input on this project completely and that does not include the MSG interactions another level disgusting!

Perhaps in recognizing that residents do not daily check the hidden corners of the city website or outside consultant websites (AKA Arroyo Group for Crenshaw/Imperial or Manchester/ La Cienega plans ) for proposed projects and scoping meetings which might devastate or negatively impact their lives, it was hoped no one would attend the scoping meeting (where no verbal comments were recorded) or would offer no written comments.

There has yet to be a document which residents (those impacted who live breath, walk, live, shop, attend local schools, and may work in the area) can touch, hold, examine or take home and ponder, how sad that Senator Bradford chose to suggest the community should have no right to participate in ANY discussion. Clearly such disrespect SCREAMS INSULTS. Precious little information was provided at the poorly advertised scoping meeting! Attendees (Impacted residents) were largely only notified of the meeting by non-city generated flyers, and neighborhood telephone trees!

A full and Complete Environmental Impact Report should be generated. Responding to what comes to mind of "non-professional planners" is not sufficient. Just because the stadium was green lighted does not mean environmental issues evaporated! They will actually be compounded.

Pretending that there is "no significant" TRAFFIC impact is laughable.

Really! Adding an additional 18,000 plus (employees/uber drivers/media/etc), arriving by auto, bus (highly unlikely), or by the not-yet-publicly- disclosed- planned- or-built metro-something, WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT! If one argues it will not- please invite 18,000 of your closest family and friends to your personal dining room and ask them to park in your driveway — chances are your neighbors will not be pleased. The summary suggests continuous and constant events (AKA traffic) with NO MITIGATION planned for surrounding neighborhoods which are homes to thousands of residents. The failure to care about how community members are impacted can be easily summed up in a few words—some elected and developers apparently think residents are irrelevant. Pretending there will be no infringement in community access to our homes, engine exhaust, noise, or neighborhood-cutthrough impacts is simply delusional.

## **Community Disregard:**

That the undated "Project summary" -one page document of the March 12, 2018 meeting claims NO homes, apartment buildings or churches will be part of the "Project" is completely unbelievable. Such denial suggests that the public is unaware of the proposed Senate Bill of Steve Bradford. That Senate Bill, which included privately owned property would have made all discussions regarding environmental impact concerns simply evaporate without evaluation. Clearly it would be thoughtless, inconsiderate, rude, inappropriate and simply wrong to allow any such use in such close proximity to a pre-existing place of worship, or the many homes without discussion! Inverse commendation will be a likely by-product of this project costing the city litigation dollars and not so pleasant publicity. To attempt to make the public believe it is not likely that eminent domain will eventually be used to wipe-out the community proposed to be rezoned to benefit the project owner(s) would require belief in the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus and Leprechauns.

Project Boards indicating the project area outlines including the Church's Fried Chicken and Rodeway Inn and Suites as "Vacant Properties" assumes the public will believe any Lie put on Poster Board! Neither of these Businesses is closed or vacant. Each has a long history of serving the community. Both businesses deserve recognition - they have paid business taxes to the entity which now claims they do not exist. Will city accounting staff research all license fees and taxes previously paid and then generate a reimbursement check? If these small businesses are essentially "kicked out" why would any other franchise operation trust the Inglewood Economic Development Department and risk falling into the disposable business list at some point when staff or administration changes?

## Natural Dramas:

That the **Inglewood-Newport Earthquake Fault** runs across the Hollywood Park Property should not lead anyone to believe the damage caused by a tremor will end at the property or project line. Gathering thousands of people in such close proximity to potential earth shifting is simply not wise whether or not the Stadium owner has any regard for his fans lives. Mother Nature tends not to have

such great awe for architecture as man should have for her power. Levies, dams, bridges, roadways and wonderful buildings have all been found wanting when confronted with Mother Nature having a noteworthy and memorable day. While some have tried to language this fault out of conversation (changing the name to NEWPORT-Inglewood), the geo-layers and subterranean forces really don't care what they are named.... when they move they will be called disasters. The more people in proximity, the more will be injured - oh yes, that I told you so publicity will follow. Planners should care.

City water is limited. No matter how many wells are dug, the water below the surface is limited. The combined increased water use of the Stadium and Arena fans should not be at the expense of residents. Water use should not be lightly considered!!! This important community resource should not be compromised! Perhaps the Billionaires should have a competition as to which could better resolve water purification concerns for the drought impacting southern California or maybe they could join forces to fund water projects and their names may not be interchangeable with greed at community expense.

Air Quality will suffer. Not only will the community air quality continue to be impacted by Los Angeles International Aircraft Runway fuel mix misted on us as Airplanes Approach either of the runways, but adding the 18,000 plus transportation exhaust to the stadium traffic (gosh no one thinks there will be any?) exhaust, and the Forum traffic exhaust, may very well concentrate more air quality issues on residents of the area surrounded by the 105/405/110 freeways and the Baldwin Hills than anywhere else in Los Angeles County. SoCal AQMD research does not currently reflect air quality impacts of the addition of the Fedexpress facility near Rogers Park or the planned Transit Development approved by the city council as appear on the Arroyo Group website.

## Inglewood the new Chavez Ravine where Gentrification and Campaign Contributions Make Dislocation Feel Special:

Nothing is more revolting than elected taking from those less financially secure to reward the rich with benefits of zone changes and the possibility of eminent domain to assemble parcels for the creation of a sports idol worship center.

The Recent History of this area's residents being dislocated under an assortment of falsehoods to benefit non-residents should be sufficient for Inglewood to be a high contender as **poster community for government abuse.** 

Inglewood City Council members who did not like the "appearance of those people" (low income/predominately Hispanic) living in "tin cans" (affordable mobile homes) was the beginning point of acquisitions utilizing a combination of Federal Aviation Administration, Los Angeles World Airport, and California Redevelopment funds "coincidently" at the proposed site for this Arena project on both sides of Prairie Ave south of Century Blvd. The dislocations continued to rid the community of additional less fortunate in affordable apartment buildings with supposedly "no future plans" except that the then Mayor whose football career ended early due to an injury routinely chatted and chatted more about the joys of a "sports park" and turned down job generating project proposals made by many

developers including a commercial bakery, community service organization Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and a multi-screen theatre complex. More "unworthy" were displaced to "assemble parcels" for airfreight warehouses, which generate little revenue for the city but got "those people" out. To facilitate the "upgrade and expansion" of the shopping corridor multiple local businesses and even more affordable housing at Woodworth and  $102^{nd}$  was eliminated. In what appears to be an effort to rid the community of non-wealthy predominately minority (yes, brown) residents- Inglewood's elected have chosen to claim that airplane noise is a reason to move the non-wealthy out of affordable housing (Century Boulevard to  $102^{nd}$  and  $104^{th}$  Streets) yet declare noise impacts not a problem for "moderate" not so affordable income residents across the street in Hollywood Park Tomorrow.

End Result – Low-Income Minority Community members were dislocated and much needed affordable housing demolished, while wealthy Non-Minority developers proposed projects which added more to their bank accounts after donating thousands to the campaign committees of elected who just happen to approve their projects, often provide: funding assistance, zoning changes, staff support and marketing. (oh my is that a coincidence?)

Oh this project is so confusing - was that bait and switch, smoke and mirrors or hope that Inglewood Residents would not be able to connect dots?

Murphy's Bowl LLC's you-tube video suggests that its Inglewood sport would be a world class Bowling Alley on Century Blvd near Prairie Ave. and yet a Bowling Alley is not included among the highlights in the "Project Summary" presented by the City Planning Manager on March 12, 2018. Hmmmm?

Murphy's Bowl LLC in many of the early "Inglewood Forward" city-wide mailings oops forgot? (or perhaps intentionally failed) to take ownership for the Ego gratifying Publicity Campaign screaming the praises of Inglewood's Mayor, featuring the smiling faces of those dependent on the Mayor for appointment as Commissioners or in some cases their income. While these mailings use an Inglewood address in the return address space, the Secretary of State website reflects a Beverly Hills address for Inglewood Forward. Could it be that this publicity campaign is the how the \$ 1.5 million contract dollars are being spent? Does pathetic adequately describe the permanent disruption of two business and multiple neighbors as an exchange for some ego strokes?

That California Senator Steve Bradford put a bill before the Legislature for this project to avoid the process allowing residents to discuss the impacts of this project is beyond self serving. No wonder his staff did not want to hand a copy of the bill to a local resident. That any elected supported the concept is likewise disturbing. Anyone titled, elected or financially secure should never be permitted to disregard or dismiss the impact their personal gratification has on others. **Of, by, and for the People are not music lyrics to be dismissed, devalued, or discounted.** They are the foundation of our country and should never be compromised to serve any individual or any corporation.

Lockhaven (yes that area has a name) resident's quality of life should never be for sale at any price. A destination location for the rich (or for those who 'wanna play rich') should not be at the expense of the not rich.

There are other options - A Sports and Entertainment Center could be built where there are vast acres of empty land, where no one will be displaced, or in neighborhoods that (YIMBYS) Yes-In-My-Back-Yard-Sgenuinely own and actually live in those homes. Perhaps Mr. Kroenke's recently purchased 575 acres are available, - mid-country, room for an airport, monorail, and several hotels. Kroenke has already evicted the resident families that called the ranch home for multiple generations. Rumor has it both wealthy sports team owners like multiple sports! Sounds like a match—doesn't it? Perhaps the wealthy men could jointly build small "stack and pack condos" on that acreage to rent especially to "their politicians," let those who have enabled their stadiums have first choice seating selection after they purchase personal seat licenses, and they could host monthly "high-end" dining events for their mutual admiration gatherings instead of impacting Inglewood families.

About that "community space" line on the project summary—heard it before (police station/school land/community center/park) none ever became a reality! Given the Inglewood Forward 'not-so-trues' and the Bradford Bill....as the saying goes a donkey doesn't trip twice on the same rock.

From the Adding Insult to Injury column: There has been no expressed intention to change the name to INGLEWOOD CLIPPERS – if our community must bear the burdens and experience negative impacts to our quality of life, should Los Angeles get the recognition if the team wins?

What a Legacy - Non-Transparency, Back Room Bills, Dislocation of Residents,

Deane Am brand

Perhaps next project someone will consider proper public notice, complete disclosure, and truth in advertising - that sounds hopeful! Oh, wait this is inglewood.