

***Kimberlee Stryker Design, Landscape Architecture***  
LANDSCAPE HISTORIC GARDENS PLANNING

Dec. 2, 2008

Planning Commissioners  
San Francisco Planning Department  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: Support of Discretionary Review Reform

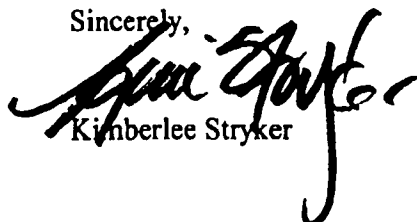
Dear Commissioners,

I strongly support the Planning Commission and Planning Department's efforts to reform the current process for Discretionary Review (DR). I have seen numerous abuses of the DR process over the years which have delayed good projects from being built in a timely way. The cost has been high for clients and for neighbors who want improvements in their neighborhoods. Under the current DR process too many opportunities for frivolous hearings waste time of the Planning Commission and Planning Department staff, as well as the time and money of the majority of responsible homeowners and their architects/designers who follow San Francisco codes. As the Design Review process currently stands, often rules are arbitrarily enforced based on how organized the opposition is rather than the merit of a project. That is unfair to the majority of the public and unduly burdensome to the Planning Staff and Planning Commission.

The proposed reforms are well-designed, comprehensive and will benefit everyone by offering a more predictable and consistent process for permits and will minimize the current arbitrary and political nature of the current DR process. These proposed reforms will also help minimize conflict and animosity in our neighborhoods and between neighbors.

Your efforts to help de-politicize the Design Review and bring more fairness to the process would be much appreciated. I ask you to please support these reforms. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

  
Kimberlee Stryker

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