

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

December 1, 2008

Re: Letter in Support of Discretionary Review Reform

We are writing this letter in total support for the DR Reform, which we were thankfully made aware of.

Being a Project Sponsor we know the pain and agony of having friendly neighbors turn ugly with verbal abuse to us and even to our guests who came to our home. Police and Environmental Protection Agency called for invented reasons during our construction. Or to have the audacity to tell us prior to filing the DR, "We're going to make this hurt. It's going to cost you." Well they were right. The expense of defending the already approved remodel plans is in excess of \$8,000. Now put that next to the \$300 the DR requestor had to pay, where is the equality there? The above expense doesn't include the man hours and stress we had to endure in preparation of the hearing. We the Project Sponsor have our hands tied. We have to see it through so we spend the money even though we have no recourse. Because of this we are so happy that the Planning Commission and the Planning Department on being proactive in improving the DR process.

Being a business person in the city of San Francisco for over 30 years we have invested in properties not only in this city but other Bay area locations as well. We have found working with the Building and Planning Departments in all counties to be very thorough in their own process of making sure everything complies to code for the area. That is their job. It seems the Planning Commission should be available for the bigger picture, or for those higher level policy issues that is mentioned in the Action Plan Objectives. Not to micromanage the Planning Department.


In these uncertain economic times it seems to be the perfect time to shed this extra weight and cost from the Planning Commission and us the tax payers of the this fine City. The Planning Department should be allowed to review and if they choose not accept a submitted DR that does not demonstrate exceptional and extraordinary circumstances. Operative words here are "exceptional" and "extraordinary".

We have seen the Discretionary Review Reform Public Outreach information, dated November 19, 2008, and we agree that the proposed improvements are

well designed, comprehensive, and would benefit all parties. Let's minimize the current arbitrary and political nature of the current DR process.

We appreciate you taking the time to listen and please consider approving the Planning Department's proposed improvements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra & Fred Herrera".

Sandra and Fred Herrera

A black rectangular redaction box covering two lines of text, likely a phone number and an email address.