



Elaine  
Forbes/CTYPLN/SFGOV  
12/05/2008 01:57 PM

To  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fw: I am in Support of Discretionary Review Reform

/ Attachment iv Written Comments, received after case report was issued on 12/4/2008

Dear Planning Commission,

In February 2007 I purchased a home in Dolores Heights and planned to improve it following the strict guidelines of this special use district. With the help of our architect we worked with our neighbors, the Dolores Heights Improvement Club, the SF Historical resource planners, and the planning department to create plans for the home I wanted to raise a family in. The threat of a DR was used by a small but vocal set of neighbors during this planning process and made this a one way negotiation: them demanding and us giving in. During the 5-month process we saw the gamut from unreasonable requests to create our additional living space underground to barely disguised "offers" to extort money from us in return for being agreeable.

I will most likely never benefit from the planned DR reform as I suspect it will come too late for us, but I am witnessing first-hand how broken the process is and I would like to save future generation of homeowners the misery of DR-terror.

I strongly support the Planning Commission and Planning Department's efforts to reform the Discretionary Review process. Under the current DR process, there are too many opportunities for abuses such as frivolous DR hearings that squander time and resources of not only homeowners wanting to improve their homes but also the Planning Commission and Planning Department.

The proposed improvements are well-designed, comprehensive, and will be a benefit to all. The proposed improvements to the Planning Department's internal review will provide a more predictable and consistent process for permitting and will minimize the current arbitrary and political nature of the current DR process.

I greatly appreciate the Planning Commission and Planning Department being proactive in improving the DR process.

Please approve the Planning Department's proposed improvements.

Sincerely,  
Cedric Dupont