



OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

August 23, 2005

Dear Community Council Members:

Thank you for your ongoing participation in the ENCHIA Community Council. This letter provides a brief summary of our tenth meeting held on August 17, 2005.

At the August meeting, staff from the Planning Department provided updates on the various community planning processes taking place in the Eastern Neighborhoods. These include rezoning, area plan development, policy development for light industrial uses, and the conduct of an environmental impact assessment. After the presentation, several Council members pointed to the challenges of comprehensively planning for diverse elements of the built environment (e.g. transportation and open space). Council members raised several specific questions, and Planning Department staff committed to responding to the questions at a subsequent Council meeting. ENCHIA staff will work with Planning Department Staff to prepare the following requested information: a timeline with milestones for the related planning processes, a matrix comparing issues being studied in the EIR, the Socioeconomic Analysis, the Health Impact Assessment, and issues raised by community members in public scoping of the EIR. At the next meeting, the group also requested some time on the agenda to discuss what input they may provide to the various planning processes.

We next brought the draft Environmental Stewardship and Public Infrastructure Assessments to the Council to solicit additional input on potential policies and strategies. This brainstorming supplemented work already done at the sub-group level. Additional ideas to support environmental and public infrastructure objectives included:

- Giving tax incentives to companies for startup cost of childcare and accessing childcare fees for companies who do not supply childcare.
- Encourage city, state and federal energy efficient subsidies for developers to provide sustainable energy sources and green design in new buildings.
- Neighborhoods should have a certain open space requirement and when new development takes place there should be a fee per square feet for which allocated towards open space.

At the next meeting, staff will present the Council with a comprehensive list of strategies that have been identified for all *Healthy City Vision* elements and related objectives. Staff is in the process of conducting feasibility research on these ideas by accessing available literature and conducting interviews with experts and other stakeholders. This research will be shared with the Council in the context of evaluating strategies.

Next, staff presented a proposal to conduct a series of community assessments to augment our data profiles with qualitative information and experiences from community members. By gathering further information on needs from communities not participating in the monthly Council meetings, the Council will be able to examine the identified strategies taking into account priorities set forth by community members. The goal is to also stimulate broader community participation in the planning process. Carolina Guzman will be coordinating this community assessment effort and will be contacting Council members to solicit their input and participation.

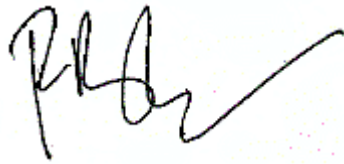
After the presentation of the community assessment plan, Jason Corburn, PhD, the project's evaluator from Columbia University, presented results from interviews with a number of ENCHIA participants. The evaluation, which he transmitted electronically to all Council members, serves an important role of informing us of ongoing participant needs and concerns in the process. Our goal is to amend and add to the process in efforts to respond to these needs. This also helps support engaged Council participation and collective ownership in achieving project outcomes. After Dr. Corburn's presentation, staff presented their ideas for responding to the issues and concerns, and welcomed any additional ideas to make the process more meaningful to members.

Looking forward, between October and December, we plan on evaluating a range of strategies for which we gather information and evidence. We plan to accomplish this evaluation through agreement on a shared set of evaluation or decision-making "criteria". At the August meeting, staff began this discussion of collective policy evaluation by providing the Council with examples of "criteria" commonly used in policy evaluation. Attached to this letter is draft set of proposed evaluation criteria which also incorporates Council input on those criteria. Staff will review this list with Council members who did not attend the August meeting and bring a revised list back to the Council for review and approval in September. Staff will then also provide an overview of how we propose to measure these criteria against strategies.

Again, thank you for your time and commitment to this process. We believe the process has already resulted in a number of important and valuable outcomes. We would like to encourage you to share experiences about how the lessons and research from ENCHIA is affecting and influencing your work and we will make time for this sharing at future meetings.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at 415.252.3982.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bhatia', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH.
Medical Director, Occupational and Environmental Health