



PAUL KREKORIAN

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER

January 19, 2021

Re: **Refund for Valley Village Specific Plan Project Permit Compliance Fee paid between 2016 to 2019**

Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased to report that after a long effort led by my office, working with Neighborhood Council Valley Village and the Valley Village Homeowners Association, you may now be eligible for a refund from the City of Los Angeles.

As you may know, the Valley Village Specific Plan was created in 1993 to protect residents from out of scale development and to preserve the unique character of the community. One of the provisions of that plan limits the height of single-family homes to a maximum of 30 feet. That provision was intended to require only a ministerial, objective review of the plans to ensure compliance with the height limitation.

After subsequent unrelated changes were made in the code, in 2016 the Planning Department began to process these cases as a Project Permit Compliance application, which added months to the approval process and increased costs to homeowners by thousands of dollars for even simple projects.

To remedy the problem, I introduced a Council motion instructing the Planning Department to return to the administrative review process for single-family homes. In March 2019, the Planning Department issued the Implementation Guidance Memo which determined the Valley Village Specific Plan should not have required a Project Permit Compliance process for single-family homes.

Even after the practice was changed on a going-forward basis, those homeowners who had already wrongly been required to go through a Project Permit Compliance process were left without a remedy. I continued to press to ensure that all of those homeowners would be refunded the extra amount of fees they had paid.

At long last, I am pleased to inform you that the Planning Department is now taking claims for partial refund of the Project Permit Compliance fees and other associated fees, such as that you had paid for construction done to your single-family home, that were paid between 2016 and 2019.

The Planning Department will soon be sending instructions on how to obtain the partial refund to the individual listed on the invoice. If I can provide any further assistance, please contact my Field Representative, Jessica Fugate, at jessica.fugate@lacity.org or (818) 755-7676.

Very truly yours,



PAUL KREKORIAN

Los Angeles City Councilmember