

From: tony higgins <tony.higgins123@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:50 AM
To: City Council <citycouncil@hermosabeach.gov>; DG_PlanningCommission <DG_PlanningCommission@hermosabeach.gov>; Suja Lowenthal <suja@hermosabeach.gov>; Ann Yang <anny@hermosabeach.gov>
Cc: Kevin R. Cody <kevin@easyreadernews.com>
Subject: Re: Housing Element Another fine mess

One edit...

Dear City Council
Dear Planning Commission

Well here we are in another fine mess.

Despite spending many millions on consulting, hiring two different community development directors in the past couple of years, staffing increases, more salary increases for our city manager than you can shake a stick at, countless job re-classifications and a buffet of budget increases the city hasn't taken care of basic core competencies like completing its Housing Element on time.

And because of this, the city is at increased risk from predatory developers among other things as described in the LA Times article below:

<https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2022-10-24/santa-monica-housing-apartment-boom>

Are we going to blame covid again?

Well most other California cities either have HCD approved Housing Elements or at least submitted their Housing Elements to HCD.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of risks and penalties our city and ultimately our residents are now facing for not having an approved Housing Element in place.

Running the City is a very demanding job. I will grant you that.

But having an on-time approved Housing Element is just a core competency for a City Manager.

But at this point it should be clear the problem is a matter of priorities not resources and accordingly i believe our city manager is just not up to the job.

The draft Housing Element should have been submitted long before Ken Robertson retired.

The Housing Element draft should have been submitted to HCD by January 2021 if we were to have an HCD approved Housing Element by October 2021 as required by State Law.

And our City Council has failed to provide any meaningful oversight and continues to hand our rosy accolades & raises instead of pink slips.

Anthony Higgins