

HOLMBY-WESTWOOD TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Weiss Pushes Developer Windfall Motion at Hearing and Supports DOT Irregularities, Despite Safety Concerns of Affected Area Residents.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Jack Weiss' office argued Wednesday before the City Council's Traffic Committee for passage of Weiss' motion to dismantle the existing traffic mitigation measures required as a condition of Casden Development's construction of the Palazzo Westwood development in Westwood Village. Weiss' office persisted in seeking the motion's passage, even though the motion misstates the results of a neighborhood survey about the measures, failing to advise the Traffic Committee that the Affected Area residents voted by more than 72% percent in favor of the measures.

Pursuant to the conditions for development imposed by the City and a written agreement between the developer, the City, and the area property owner's association, Casden was to fund the implementation of permanent measures to mitigate cut-through traffic affecting the "Affected Area" of the residential neighborhood east of the development. Temporary traffic mitigation measures were installed in February 2008 and, according to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation's ("DOT") own data, the measures resulted in a net decrease of 14.5% in cut-through traffic and an overall decrease in the speed of traffic on these residential streets. One such street even enjoyed a decrease in cut-through traffic of at least 124% and a reduction in speeds of over 26%.

Councilmember Weiss failed to appear at the hearing on his motion, but sent two staff members as his emissaries to argue for its approval, notwithstanding the objections of the Affected Area residents. The Weiss staff members affirmed Weiss' support for the DOT irregularities that serves as the premise for Weiss' motion to dismantle the temporary traffic mitigation measures –

