**Citywide Sign Ordinance Update**

The City Planning Commission (CPC) approved an ordinance in 2009. Since then, however, it has been stalled at the City Council’s PLUM Committee where sign industry lobbyists substantially weakened the ordinance. The heavily amended ordinance was sent back to the CPC for further review. At its October 22 hearing the CPC unanimously approved a revised ordinance with the following major features:

• No amnesty for unpermitted signs

• No digital signs outside of Sign Districts

 • Takedown ratio of 5:1 for conventional billboards and 10:1 for digital (with no unpermitted or out of compliance signs eligible for takedown credit)

• Grandfathered sign districts limited to the two approved by the CPC in March, 2009 and the four districts for which applications had been submitted before that date (specifically: Metropolis, City West, Koreatown, and Midtown Crossing)

The CPC discussed incentives for sign removal and determined that Councilmember Krekorian’s proposal to allow billboards on city-owned property should not be part of this ordinance. Instead, the CPC asked to have more information on the proposal. The sign ordinance will now return to PLUM before going on to the full City Council. If Council makes further changes, 10 votes will be required to override the CPC’s recommendation. We do not know when the ordinance will be scheduled at PLUM, but lots of community support will be needed. To stay up to date on developments, visit http://banbillboardblight.org.