

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

9. Development Charges Grant Program for Downtown and Old East Village Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Areas
 - Sandy Levin, on behalf of the Urban League of London – advising that they are pretty closely in agreement with the London Development Institute that the Community Improvement Program is the appropriate way to deal with the Incentive Program; agreeing with what he saw on the Agenda that there needs to be some mechanism put into place to know how successful the program is and when it is time to end the program, particularly in Downtown as it is nearly 20 years; indicating that there has certainly been activity, the question is always can you relate it to the incentive program or not; noting that it is too early to tell for Old East as the timing for Old East would be different for Downtown from his perspective; and, having this as a CIP rather than a Development Charges By-law is the right way to go so they are looking forward to seeing what staff comes back with, the measurable to know when do you take away the punch bowl, so to speak.
 - Sarah Merritt, Old East Village Business Improvement Area – advising that the CIP Development Charges exemption has been hugely critical to what they are doing and she would be very happy to assist with the cost benefit analysis on the effectiveness of the Development Charges incentive in their area; indicating that they have been monitoring cost benefit in terms of dollar value, new developments that are happening alongside as well as what they are seeing as increased spending in the area; and, reiterating that it is really helping them and they would be happy to be part of assisting with that analysis because she thinks that as well as, over time, to the tax increases to the City, there are a whole other range of benefits that they have been analyzing and they would love to make that data available.
 - Nadio Di Pardo - (see [attached](#) submission.)
 - Mohammed Moussa, 155 Thornton Avenue – indicating that he realizes that this has a long history to it, but why is this being changed to a grant program rather than a DC waiver charge; advising that it is going to look like a handout to most City taxpayers, for developers Downtown and Old East as compared to a waiver of a charge; and, asking if someone could briefly answer his question.
 - Jim Kennedy, President, London Development Institute – advising that the one thing that he believes is missing from this is, as Mr. Levin already spoke to, the mechanism to know when they have accomplished what the target is; noting that he did speak to the Planner and the Manager, Urban Regeneration, with respect to this matter; indicating that he knows that in 1995, when the waiver was first brought in, there were no targets; advising that it seemed to be that the target, in some way, was once we got in a grocery store Downtown, that meant that they were there; noting that that needs 10,000 residents Downtown and he thinks that they are about 5,000; thinking that they just need to work with staff at coming up with those targets; and, indicating that it would be nice to be involved in coming up with that guideline, before the guideline is completed, just so that they have input as they have information that relates to timing, etc.