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# A BUBBLING CAULDRON

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MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015

## Citizen Group Calls For Initiative On Development

### QUALITY OF LIFE



The Costa Mesa citizens group, **Costa Mesa First**, today announced the first steps in the initiative process to place on the ballot the question of whether residents of this city should have the power

to decide if major changes in allowable land use is worth the impact on their quality of life. You can read the entire press release below. **(Click on the image to enlarge for easier reading)**



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**COSTA MESA**  
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**COSTA MESA FIRST ANNOUNCES REQUEST FOR TITLE AND SUMMARY FOR AN INITIATIVE FOR AN ORDINANCE TO GIVE THE PEOPLE OF COSTA MESA CONTROL OF THEIR FUTURE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Costa Mesa, California) - June 29, 2015 - Costa Mesa First announced today it has requested the title and summary from the City Attorney in connection with an initiative for the purpose of amending Title 13 of the Municipal Code of the City of Costa Mesa.

The initiative will give the voters of Costa Mesa the power to decide whether major changes in allowable land use is worth the impact on their quality of life. Excessive development is anticipated to further effect the environmental quality of the city by causing severe traffic congestion and gridlock, degradation of the city's infrastructure, as well as air, noise and water pollution. Increased population density and overall population growth have stressed Costa Mesa's parks, police, fire and other public facilities and services, resulting in adverse effects on public well-being. Voter approval of major land use changes ensures maximum public participation and avoids decisions made by short-lived council majorities. This initiative will provide checks and balances to the city planning process.

"We're excited to be supporting this first step in the ballot initiative process" said Rick Huffman of Costa Mesa First.

Jay Humphrey stated "I am pleased the voters of Costa Mesa will finally get to participate in the process of deciding what projects get built in the city. This initiative is an idea whose time has long passed and I am excited to see it begin to become a reality for the residents."

*Costa Mesa First (FPPC 1332564) is a group of concerned Costa Mesa residents and encourages the adoption and implementation of smart growth policies. Please contact Costa Mesa First at P.O. Box 2282, Costa Mesa, CA 92628 (714) 549-5884, [costamesa1st@gmail.com](mailto:costamesa1st@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.*

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## IN THE HANDS OF CITY ATTORNEY

The text of the initiative is presently in the hands of Costa Mesa City Attorney, **Tom Duarte**, who will provide the title and summary necessary to proceed with the next step.



## GATHERING SIGNATURES FOR NOV. 2016 BALLOT



At some point in the very near future, depending on how the rest of this process moves along - probably near the middle of July - the proponents of this initiative will begin collecting signatures to authorize the placement of the initiative on the General

Election ballot in November, 2016. According to the information provided to me, collection of signature may take up to 180 days. The proponents will need at least 5,000 valid signatures according to City Clerk **Brenda Green**. The proponents will likely try to gather 7,500 signatures, just to be sure.

## CONTROVERSIAL AND CONTENTIOUS



This initiative is similar to Newport Beach's **Greenlight** measure - one of the most contentious measures in the history of that city. This one has the probability of also being controversial, since it potentially has the capability of slamming the brakes on "excessive development" throughout the city. We'll know more when the actual initiative is

available for reading.

### HEADS, NOT FIREWORKS, EXPLODING

I can hear developer-oriented politician's heads exploding all over Mesa Verde as folks become aware of this initiative. And you thought they were only M-80s!



### OH, BOY...

It's going to be a very interesting summer and fall.

Labels: Brenda Green, Costa Mesa First, Development Initiative, Jay Humphrey, Rick Huffman, Tom Duarte

POSTED BY THE POT STIRRER AT 6/29/2015 04:07:00 PM



#### 7 COMMENTS:

 Joe said...

Yeah, all that dough collected from developers and this is what happens.

The brand went wrong. Now it's time to move forward toward sanity. Maybe Boss Hogg will move to another city now.

6/29/2015 04:51:00 PM

 Teresa Drain said...

Thank you Jay and Rick!

I love that there are people that are listening to what the citizens have been saying, and are willing to take the BULL by the horns to get this on the ballot. For too long, the Planning Commission and council majority has favored high density and out of town developers over long term citizens, the spirit of our General Plan and our zoning codes. I can't wait to read the text of this. I am not opposed to change or growth. Smart growth and beneficial changes will help our city for years to come. The definition of out of control growth is: cancer.

6/29/2015 09:41:00 PM

 Where's My Coffee? said...

Very happy that the out of control high density development will be halted, or at least slowed down. Once this happens, the council and the planning commission can't just give the finger to the residents. They will have to actually do the job they were appointed to do in order to get things done. Very proud. All volunteers are needed, I'm sure, to get this thing going. I'm in. This will hopefully stop a lot of people from being impacted with these ugly tenements next to their homes.

6/30/2015 08:46:00 AM

 Where's My Coffee? said...

Teresa, very true. There is plenty that does need to be worked on, such as Harbor Blvd. However, Harbor Blvd. should not be residential. It should be commercial, and not just fast food joints and car dealers. It doesn't need to look the way it does. Revitalization is development, but good development. And not with our "officials'" hands out to the developers.

6/30/2015 08:50:00 AM

 Tamar said...

Many thanks to Costa Mesa First for putting forward this very important initiative. It will provide much-needed transparency and a chance to have a voice in what matters to Costa Mesa residents the most: our quality of life.

Dan and I will help.

6/30/2015 09:26:00 AM

 Cindy Lou Who said...

Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray! Thank you Jay and Rick and Costa Mesa First! Can't wait to read the initiative and start walking to gather those 7,500 signatures. I've got my walking shoes on. Where do I sign up?

6/30/2015 09:32:00 AM

 Disgusted Republican said...

A possible ray of hope for CM? Wonder how the true "haters" will tie this to the "Unions"? And how often they'll throw out the "anti/no growth" lingo in their attempts to keep this highly necessary initiative from passing?

12/1/2015

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6/30/2015 05:09:00 PM

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