

8-14-2024 - Reno City Council Meeting - Item # B.1 Redevelopment Agency Status Report

[illegible]

**concern re Item B.1 of 8/14/24 meeting of Reno Redevelopment Agency Board****Eric Lerude <ewlerude@gmail.com>**

Tue 8/13/2024 3:14 PM

To:Public Comment - CC &lt;PublicComment@reno.gov&gt;

Hello Reno City Council,

Apparently you are looking to more formally and substantively re-launch redevelopment efforts in the City of Reno.

That is great news.

My concern is that what you are going to vote on at your 8/14/24 meeting will address a lot of important issues and set forth ways redevelopment will be tackled, yet it has not been properly vetted by everyone who is interested in this process and who should be consulted to one degree or another.

In addition, there apparently are no plans to re-institute the Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board that operated years ago and was an effective means to vet redevelopment projects and get public input.

Alicia Barber has set forth a number of issues in her 8/12/24 Barber Brief. They appear to be very legitimate.

Please consider not voting at your 8/14/24 meeting about this subject matter and holding off to take any official actions until there has been sufficient vetting by qualified individuals within and outside the City of Reno and public input.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your service to the City of Reno.

Eric Lerude

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**August 14, 2024 Redevelopment Agency Board item B.1**

Alicia Barber <[aliciambarber@gmail.com](mailto:aliciambarber@gmail.com)>

Tue 8/13/2024 12:02 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <[PublicComment@reno.gov](mailto:PublicComment@reno.gov)>

Dear Mayor Schieve and Councilmembers Brekhuis, Duerr, Ebert, Martinez, Reese, and Taylor,

I am writing to respectfully encourage you to decline the staff recommendation to adopt all the new Redevelopment Agency materials being proposed for your approval on August 14th under item B.1.

Instead, I encourage you to accept these materials as drafts, discuss what aspects you can in your limited time, and begin to plan with staff how you can conduct a transparent public process geared toward further refining these materials and proposed programs.

Redevelopment is a very complicated subject that requires much more discussion and evaluation after such a long period of dormancy for Reno's Redevelopment Agency.

I have written an edition of my newsletter, *The Barber Brief*, about this topic, which I encourage you to read in full here: <https://thebarberbrief.substack.com/p/not-so-fast-please-more-time-required>

There, I elaborate much more on my concerns, which I've divided into five primary issues:

It was not undertaken as a public process and was conceived without any community, stakeholder, or Board engagement. In fact, the only "stakeholders" referenced are the property owners, developers, and investors who would be able to apply for Redevelopment Agency funding should these policies be adopted.

It does not identify who the City of Reno is now considering to be "Redevelopment Agency staff," and yet it places that entity in charge of reviewing applications for Redevelopment assistance, presenting their recommendations to the Agency Board (Council) for final approval, and more.

It does not propose the reinstatement of the Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board (RAAB) or any citizen body to advise the Agency Board (Council) on desired projects to be prioritized or undertaken in the redevelopment areas. That body is still referenced in Redevelopment materials and plays an essential role.

It divides RDA#2 into seven new "planning districts," each with a new (and in some cases, questionable) name, assessment of current conditions, and delineated goals, needs, and development preferences with images of "Sample Properties." These assessments and goals stem from many subjective decisions that should be interrogated.

It proposes that the Redevelopment Agency adopt five different "Participation Programs," each of which is incredibly complex and warrants individual discussion in great depth and detail in order to determine whether the Board and greater community agree that these constitute desirable project types for each or any of these areas, and agree with how staff proposes to evaluate and fund them.

Thank you for your attention. I think it's critical for the Redevelopment Agency to be relaunched, just not in this manner. This is not an emergency and there is plenty of time to do it right.

Respectfully,

8/13/24, 1:15 PM

Mail - Public Comment - CC - Outlook

Alicia Barber  
Resident, Ward One

# PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

RENO CITY COUNCIL

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Art Karsch  
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If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

☐ WARD 1    ☐ WARD 2    ☐ WARD 3    ☐ WARD 4    ☒ WARD 5  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM B.1 on Redevelopment Award

☐ IN FAVOR    ☐ IN OPPOSITION    ☒ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

I will speak

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF RENO BY E-MAIL.

WHEN COMPLETED, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CITY OF RENO CITY CLERK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION

