



CITY COUNCIL

Linda Maio
Councilmember District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 8, 2008

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Linda Maio

Subject: The Policy of Appropriateness of Artworks be Revisited by the Arts Commission by the End of February 2009

RECOMMENDATION

Request that the Arts Commission revisit the policy of appropriateness of artworks in the Addison Street windows, and public art in general; and consider creating a practice that requires staff to direct any issues or questions regarding appropriateness of public art to the Public Art Subcommittee of the Arts Commission to make the final determination; and request that the Commission complete this work before the end of February.

BACKGROUND

There has been much discussion and concern regarding the appropriateness of an exhibition that was proposed for the Addison Street Windows that was rejected. Some have characterized the determination by staff to reject the exhibition as "censorship." This turn of events has caused much concern and tension within the arts community.

It is an important discussion to have. The Arts Commission will be meeting to discuss the idea of using the Public Arts Subcommittee as the decision-maker rather than the curator, and several of the stakeholders have expressed support for a process such as this. Given the level of concern in the community, it would be helpful for the Council to express its desire to have a process that gives the arts community a role in such decisions by providing for an open process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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