

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mary Leslie

**Date Submitted:** 09/18/2025 02:37 PM

**Council File No:** 15-1207-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** September 18, 2025 Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson Los Angeles City Council 200 North Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council, On behalf of the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC), a business research and advocacy organization representing more than 500 members across greater Los Angeles, I am writing in strong opposition to the motion put forth by Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky under Council File #15-1207-S1, which seeks to “close out all activities associated with the current Convention Center Expansion (LACC Expansion) project plan.” This proposed motion squanders years of coordinated effort, millions of taxpayer dollars already invested, and the city’s credibility with private-sector partners who have acted in good faith. Simply put, there is no scenario in which restarting this process leads to a better or more cost-effective outcome. From a financial perspective, LACC Expansion is crucial for Los Angeles to remain competitive in the multibillion-dollar conference and events market which presents the City with a budget solution, not a budget problem. Every dollar invested in bringing more visitors to Los Angeles generates revenue for the City’s general fund. This proposed motion squanders years of coordinated effort, millions of taxpayer dollars already invested, and the city’s credibility with private-sector partners who have acted in good faith. Simply put, there is no scenario in which restarting this process leads to a better or more cost-effective outcome. Los Angeles has already spent years analyzing, designing, negotiating, and preparing for this critical investment in our civic infrastructure. The city entered into an Early Works Agreement precisely to move forward with trusted partners—ones who have proven themselves by delivering iconic projects like the Staples Center in 18 months and renovating Dodger Stadium in the offseason. These are not untested firms; they are globally respected builders of world-class convention centers. Now, at the 11th hour, the proposal is to throw out all that progress and potentially initiate a new RFP process—an idea that is both financially and operationally reckless. To "consider a competitive bidding process to select delivery partners" at this stage not only risks delaying the project for years but virtually guarantees that the final product will cost more and deliver less. The motion also calls for additional studies

and reviews by the CAO, CLA, BOE, and the City Tourism Department. These departments have already spent years guiding this process. More studies now amount to more bureaucratic delay, more taxpayer expense, and ultimately, more missed opportunities for Los Angeles to compete as a world-class convention destination. Every year we delay is another year we fall behind cities that are actively investing in their convention infrastructure—and another year the City misses out on millions in potential tourism revenue, local jobs, and international visibility. Los Angeles cannot afford to keep dithering. We must move forward—not backward. The time for studies is over. The time for action is now. I urge you to reject this motion and reaffirm the City's commitment to delivering the long-overdue modernization and expansion of the Los Angeles Convention Center. Thank you for your leadership and for considering the LABC's position on this vital project. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Sincerely, Mary Leslie President Los Angeles Business Council



September 18, 2025

Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC), a business research and advocacy organization representing more than 500 members across greater Los Angeles, I am writing in **strong opposition** to the motion put forth by Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky under Council File #15-1207-S1, which seeks to “close out all activities associated with the current Convention Center Expansion (LACC Expansion) project plan.”

This proposed motion squanders years of coordinated effort, millions of taxpayer dollars already invested, and the city’s credibility with private-sector partners who have acted in good faith. Simply put, there is no scenario in which restarting this process leads to a better or more cost-effective outcome.

From a financial perspective, LACC Expansion is crucial for Los Angeles to remain competitive in the multibillion-dollar conference and events market which presents the City with a budget solution, not a budget problem. Every dollar invested in bringing more visitors to Los Angeles generates revenue for the City’s general fund. This proposed motion squanders years of coordinated effort, millions of taxpayer dollars already invested, and the city’s credibility with private-sector partners who have acted in good faith. Simply put, there is no scenario in which restarting this process leads to a better or more cost-effective outcome.

Los Angeles has already spent years analyzing, designing, negotiating, and preparing for this critical investment in our civic infrastructure. The city entered into an Early Works Agreement precisely to move forward with trusted partners—ones who have proven themselves by delivering iconic projects like the Staples Center in 18 months and renovating Dodger Stadium in the offseason. These are not untested firms; they are globally respected builders of world-class convention centers.

Now, at the 11th hour, the proposal is to throw out all that progress and potentially initiate a new RFP process—an idea that is both financially and operationally reckless. To "consider a competitive bidding process to select delivery partners" at this stage not only risks delaying the project for years but virtually guarantees that the final product will cost more and deliver less.

The motion also calls for additional studies and reviews by the CAO, CLA, BOE, and the City Tourism Department. These departments have already spent years guiding this process. More studies now amount to more bureaucratic delay, more taxpayer expense, and ultimately, more missed opportunities for Los Angeles to compete as a world-class convention destination.



Every year we delay is another year we fall behind cities that are actively investing in their convention infrastructure—and another year the City misses out on millions in potential tourism revenue, local jobs, and international visibility.

Los Angeles cannot afford to keep dithering. We must move forward—not backward. The time for studies is over. The time for action is now.

I urge you to reject this motion and reaffirm the City's commitment to delivering the long-overdue modernization and expansion of the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the LABC's position on this vital project. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Leslie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Leslie

President

Los Angeles Business Council

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/18/2025 02:44 PM

**Council File No:** 15-1207-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please support the Convention Center expansion. The convention center expansion project will encourage more hotel and hospitality development which will in turn provide additional tax revenue to the city. The convention center expansion project will further aid the recovery of Downtown Los Angeles which was heavily impacted during the pandemic and even more significantly during this year's fires, ICE raids, and curfew. A phased approach is necessary now in order to minimize the full cost. It will be cheaper to start as soon as possible and phase out construction than to wait and start construction after 2028.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carlos M Montes

**Date Submitted:** 09/18/2025 08:13 PM

**Council File No:** 15-1207-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support motion to move forward with an Expansion and Modernization of the Los Angeles Convention Center, as it will modernize and expand our current older convention center. This will allow LA City to compete in brining more and larger convention to LA. This will provide good union paid jobs.