

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(29) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(1) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/09/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 04/04/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 19-0603

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Please see the attached CIS from the Mid City West Neighborhood Council in OPPOSITION of 19-0603.



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November 9, 2021

CIS in OPPOSITION to CF #19-0603

PASSED 11.9.2021 29-0-0-1

Dear City Council:

The Mid City West Neighborhood Council opposes this motion and urges the City Council to cease all further work on this law. This motion threatens the viability of housing projects, with especially negative impacts on building affordable housing.

Mid City West has witnessed the impacts of a shortage of homes for the currently unhoused and housing-insecure residents of the neighborhood. This is a crisis that deserves a full toolkit of housing responses. Homeless counts in Los Angeles rose 61 percent between 2015 and the pre-pandemic 2020 count—and likely have only risen further since. In Mid City West’s recent homeless count, unhoused persons in the district increased 7%, including a 95% increase in the number of tents on the streets.¹ More housing, especially Permanent Supportive Housing and Affordable Housing, is urgently needed.

The Mid City West Neighborhood Council also understands the need for fire safety. Wildfires are getting worse, and they are getting more destructive and weighing down on our resources to fight them.² Many areas of Los Angeles are no stranger to fire, and a substantial number of households are at risk of losing their homes to such a disaster.

However, the effort to expand Fire District 1 is wrongheaded, as it focuses on densely populated areas of the City, close to jobs, transit, and essential services, including some areas of Mid City West. The areas most at risk of destruction in the event of fire are not touched by this motion, and instead, the areas most in need of housing are burdened with higher building costs. If concrete construction is required in the denser areas of the City, the cost of building will almost certainly increase, with a heavy burden placed on affordable housing builders. Affordable developers

¹ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NduARXbXg5wze-gaijix7TEwnNwqB_F5

² <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-10-02/hot-dry-weather-challenges-crews-fighting-california-wildfires>



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already face enormous challenges when financing projects and seeking approvals from the Departments of City Planning and Building and Safety.

Furthermore, this motion could preemptively disallow mass timber building as it is en route to entering the building code. Mass timber construction is a promising building technology that can make safe, fire-resistant buildings out of sustainably sourced timber. The homes and commercial buildings of the future could use this building method to create more affordably constructed buildings that are perfectly safe in the event of a more common urban fire (e.g. started by an appliance malfunctioning) or in the event of an earthquake.

The City Council is taking actions that do not increase fire safety, and actively harm the prospect of building affordable housing in areas like Mid City West, where such housing is desperately needed. The Neighborhood Council respectfully suggests ceasing all work towards pursuing an ordinance based on this motion.