

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Gloria Colazo

**Date Submitted:** 08/24/2021 03:04 PM

**Council File No:** 19-0603

**Comments for Public Posting:** IN SUPPORT: Building A Safer Los Angeles. As a leader in the business and nonprofit communities of California, representing both the Salvadoran and Ecuadorian Chambers of Commerce, I have spoken in strong support of the Building a Safer Los Angeles motion since 2019. As Vice-Chairman for St. Jude's Board of Directors and the original Director for the Salvadoran Chamber of Commerce, this motion is important to me and the communities that my organizations serve. Please see the attached letter of SUPPORT. Respectfully, Gloria Colazo.



August 23, 2021

Los Angeles City Council  
Planning and Land Use Management Committee  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: SUPPORT for 19-0603 - Building A Safer Los Angeles**

Dear Chairman Harris-Dawson, and Councilmembers Cedillo, Blumenfield, Ridley-Thomas, and Lee and PLUM committee staff members:

As a leader in the business and nonprofit communities of California, representing both the Salvadoran and Ecuadorian Chambers of Commerce, I have spoken in strong support of the *Building a Safer Los Angeles* motion since 2019. As Vice-Chairman for St. Jude's Board of Directors and the original Director for the Salvadoran Chamber of Commerce, this motion is important to me and the communities that my organizations serve.

Los Angeles residents are facing unparalleled economic pressures. Affordable housing is a crisis right now with rents tapping out incomes causing more homelessness, lower family incomes from loss of jobs and lay-offs during the pandemic. We must consider the economic impact and fire-life safety of Los Angeles residents, many of whom are low-income and minority families seeking multifamily housing that is affordable, close to work, and safe.

As a result of the important leadership of Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield and Monica Rodriguez's, the *Building a Safer Los Angeles* motion ensures durability, sustainability, and affordability in future multifamily construction projects. If passed, the motion will provide safer housing for residents while not placing an economic burden on developers.

This proposed motion will provide increased fire-life safety protection by expanding Fire District 1 without creating any obstacles toward the construction of new units. The increased cost of lumber makes it economically sensible to use alternative materials that combine resiliency with fire-life safety by building with non-combustible concrete, steel, and fire-resistant treated wood. We know fire expert data shows construction with non-combustible materials leads to more positive outcomes in the event of structure fires, where the amount of time families have to respond and react is so critical.

Respectfully, we urge the PLUM Committee to pass this motion. We continue to support *Build with Strength Los Angeles*, a coalition of housing advocates, architects, builders, engineers, union organizations, emergency services personnel, faith leaders, and community activists in support of the City Council's efforts to strengthen the building codes for Fire District 1 in Los Angeles.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership.

Gloria Colazo