

Communication from Public

Name: Los Angeles Shmira Patrol, Building a Safer Los Angeles Letter of Support

Date Submitted: 12/03/2019 09:35 AM

Council File No: 19-0603

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached for Los Angeles Shmira Patrol's letter of support for "Building a Safer Los Angeles" motion.



July 20, 2017

The Honorable Councilmember Blumenfeld
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Councilmember Blumenfeld,

When it comes to safety, Los Angeles Shmira Patrol is a leading organization serving Jewish communities across Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. We focus on crime prevention and emergency preparedness. Our team is trained in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and provides volunteer emergency management. We work with the Los Angeles Police Department and other agencies to provide support, whether securing a large non profit event or responding to a particular crisis.

There are a few critical areas we are most concerned about here in Los Angeles which are earthquakes, fires, and the elderly. Additionally, there are many large families and young children in our community, and this makes the work of LA Shmira especially critical in times of emergency. As real estate developments expand throughout the city, we are concerned about the integrity of these new structures, and how they will impact the safety of the community.

As the City of Los Angeles considers changes to ordinances regarding materials in multifamily and commercial structures, Los Angeles Shmira is hopeful that the best decisions will be made, with safety as a top priority. For many decades, buildings under five (5) stories have been foundationally constructed with wood. Taking into consideration both the rate of combustion in the event of a fire and the structural integrity in the case of a major earthquake, this preference to wood is not only outdated but also it reflects poorly on the safety of our community. When I consider the elderly and young children, this is especially concerning for us as an organization.

Structural foundations built with concrete have a far lasting quality and are significantly safer when it comes to the serious threats of fires and earthquakes in our region. In addition to

increased safety, there are many other reasons for a provision evaluating the use of concrete and steel in the foundation of new construction, not least of which are the long-term cost benefits over the lifespan of the building (insurance savings, increased property value, reduced maintenance etc). Allowing builders to cut corners in upfront costs and rely entirely on wood, which is demonstrably less safe in case of an emergency, is simply irresponsible. We are counting on your leadership to lead our city into a safer and more sustainable future. As you know the City of Los Angeles should be a national leader in setting building safety codes.

Thank you in advance for allowing me to enter this letter into the record regarding any ordinance changes here in the City.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Lowenstein

Kenneth Lowenstein
Director, Los Angeles Shmira Patrol

Communication from Public

Name: Asian Americans in Commercial Real Estate, Building a Safer
Los Angeles Letter of Support

Date Submitted: 12/03/2019 09:38 AM

Council File No: 19-0603

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached for a letter of support for the Building a Safer
Los Angeles motion, from the Asian Americans in Commercial
Real Estate

ASIAN AMERICANS IN COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

July 27, 2017

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Council member, Third District
City Hall
200 N. Spring St. #415
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield,

Asian Americans in Commercial Real Estate(AACRE) is proud to support the coalition of small businesses, community groups, and labor unions encouraging the Los Angeles City Council and other elected officials to enact safer, more sustainable standards for low-rise building developments throughout our city.

To that end, we back the efforts of Councilmember Blumenfield to ensure the safety and reliability of multi-family residences in Los Angeles. Requiring development that utilizes the safest and most reliable processes in the construction of multi-family housing is an essential step forward for the future and health of our city and its residents. It's important that these new developments meet or exceed the existing building codes, and that the City of Los Angeles encourages the use of non-combustible materials which heavily reduces the risks associated with fires and earthquakes; both major factors of concern in our city.

These factors are compounded by the dense populations in such buildings, increasing the concerns for safety and the need for standards to address them. The benefits of safer standards are important to so many communities, especially communities at risk, such as low and moderate income neighborhoods, and small and medium size businesses that often occupy many mixed use low-rise developments.

We encourage Councilmember Blumenfield and his fellow council members to move forward aggressively to support these efforts and support the efforts of Build With Strength - Los Angeles to improve building and fire safety regulations in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Aden Kun
Co-Founder

Communication from Public

Name: Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), Building a Safer Los Angeles motion

Date Submitted: 12/03/2019 09:41 AM

Council File No: 19-0603

Comments for Public Posting: See attached for CLUE's letter of support for the Building a Safer Los Angeles motion.



Clergy & Laity United
for Economic Justice

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Chair

So Cal AME Church

Robert A. Branch

SEIU-USWW/Security Division

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Professor, American Jewish
University

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St. John the Baptist Catholic
Church, Baldwin Park

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson- Cano

Fairview Community Church,
Costa Mesa

Betty Hung, Esq.

Asian Americans Advancing
Justice

Rev. Stephanie Jaeger, Ph.D.

Pastor, St. Matthew's Lutheran
Church, North Hollywood

Glynndana Shevlin

Disney Worker, UNITE-HERE

Rev. William Smart

Vice Chair, Secretary

SCLC of Greater Los Angeles

Mary Stancavage

Against the Stream Buddhist
Meditation Society

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson

Bishop, United Methodist
Church (ret.)

Rev. Heidi Worthen-Gamble

Presbytery of the Pacific

Ali Tweini

Teamsters Local 2010

Richard Zaldivar

The Wall Las Memorias Project

Staff

Rabbi Jonathan Klein,

Executive Director

Irene Arellano

Christopher French

Sandra Ortega

Pastor Cue Jn-Marie

Grecia Lopez-Reyes

Elizabeth Rhea

Gabriella Rosco

Rev. Andy Schwiebert

Guillermo Torres

August 8, 2017

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember, Third District
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring St. #415
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield,

Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) is excited to join a coalition representing community-based organizations, businesses, unions and other organizations throughout Los Angeles, to ask Los Angeles City Council to pass an ordinance to move our city toward a safer and more sustainable standard for low-rise building developments in Los Angeles.

We support the efforts of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield to ensure the safety and reliability of multi-family residences in Los Angeles. Requiring development that utilizes the safest and most reliable processes in the construction of multi-family housing is essential for the future and health of our city. We hope that new developments will meet or exceed existing building codes, and that the City of Los Angeles will encourage the use of non-combustible materials, which will heavily reduce the risks associated with fires and earthquakes; major concerns for our city.

These concerns are compounded by high density in our city's buildings, which increases concerns for safety and results in a need for safer standards to address them. The benefits of safer standards are important to all communities, and communities at higher risk, such as low and moderate income neighborhoods and small and medium size businesses that often occupy many mixed use low-rise developments, need the city to respond to these real safety risks.

With continuous, positive growth taking place across Los Angeles, new regulations that protect and embrace our diverse communities living and working throughout the city will provide broad and long-term benefits to the many collaborative interests involved in these developments. The critical safety measures of the Build with Strength effort do not only apply to residents, but also impact workers involved in the associated development, management and emergency response programs.

We encourage Councilmember Blumenfield and his fellow council members to move forward aggressively to support these efforts and to support the Build with Strength - Los Angeles campaign to improve building and fire safety regulations in Los Angeles.

Blessings,

Rabbi Jonathan Klein
Executive Director

Communication from Public

Name: American GI Forum Education Foundation, Building a Safer Los Angeles Letter of Support

Date Submitted: 12/03/2019 09:50 AM

Council File No: 19-0603

Comments for Public Posting: Attached is a letter of support from the American GI Forum Education Foundation.



AMERICAN GI FORUM
EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF SANTA MARIA
702 E. El Camino Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454



November 20, 2019

Dear Councilmembers,

At American GI Forum, our greatest commitment is to the wellbeing and empowerment of veterans, seniors, students and lower-income residents. That is why we support the Building a Safer Los Angeles ordinance, aimed at increasing the fire safety standards for new multi-story residential developments, and strongly encourage you to move it forward.

Tragically, fires have become a regular crisis in California, and the need to improve our standards for safety has never been more urgent. Our statewide organization is concerned for the over 250,000 veterans living in Los Angeles county, and the broader community that is depending on the decision makers at City Hall to assure their best chances of surviving a disaster. By requiring low-rise multi-family housing to utilize the safest possible resources in the construction process, Los Angeles will set a standard for the rest of the state in how to protect residents from the worst of tragedies.

So many of the veterans we represent live in multi-story housing complexes, and they are counting on us to speak out for them. Many of our veterans work in construction, or as electricians, plumbers, firefighters and EMTs. We join many labor unions and other community organizations in urging Los Angeles City Council to move forward and pass Building a Safer Los Angeles, and to make working in buildings, in a regular or emergency capacity, a safer experience for everyone.

As leaders, you have the privilege to make these changes, and Los Angeles and its residents, those who have risked their lives to serve our country and everyone else, deserve the greatest assurances of their safety. As the recent fires have shown us, the time to make change is now - we must protect our city and state. We applaud Councilmembers Blumenfield and Rodriguez for introducing this motion, and urge you to pass it as swiftly as possible, and assure the development of stronger buildings, improved fire management, and the best chances of surviving disaster.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willie Galvan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Willie Galvan, American GI Forum
Korea-Era Veteran

Communication from Public

Name: Churches in Action, Building a Safer Los Angeles motion letter of support

Date Submitted: 12/03/2019 09:55 AM

Council File No: 19-0603

Comments for Public Posting: Churches in Action submits this letter of support for the Building a Safer Los Angeles motion.

BISHOP JUAN CARLOS MENDEZ,
PRESIDENT

Churches in Action
9641 VIRGINIA AVENUE * SOUTH GATE, CA 90280
(323) 374-9976



Councilmember Jose Huizar
Councilmember, District 14
City Hall
200 N. Spring St. #465
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Huizar,

I am reaching out on behalf of the organization I founded, Churches in Action, and as Chair of the Los Angeles Interfaith Clergy Coalition.

As you are considering new standards for safety in the development of new multifamily and commercial structures in Los Angeles, I want to extend my support and encouragement to you during this process.

Churches in Action is a collective of over 2,000 churches in Southern California, and a great many of our congregants live in multifamily housing. It is a great responsibility to assure that the structures so many people call home are designed with safety as the utmost priority- especially considering the significant risk for fires and earthquakes here in Los Angeles, which is made even riskier when many people live under one roof.

I have learned of your stewardship in the matter of requiring the foundation of such buildings be made of the strongest materials, such as steel and concrete, and I applaud you for that.

Nothing is more precious than the sanctity of life, and by requiring developers to make safety the top priority in the choice of their materials, you not only honor the preciousness of life, you also secure it.

Los Angeles can and should be the leader in such matters, especially with the risks of natural disaster we face; risks that not only threaten to harm the residents but also the many people that support our city and secure our housing facilities, such as first responders and laborers. We

support the efforts of Councilmember Huizar and the Build with Strength coalition in their work to collaboratively ensure more and safer housing in Los Angeles.

I look forward to your success in enacting these important changes, and offer you my support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Carlos Mendez", is centered below the word "Sincerely,". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bishop Juan Carlos Mendez
Founder, Churches in Action
Chair, Los Angeles Interfaith Clergy Coalition

Mission Statement

"Churches For Action seeks to empower the faith community by promoting and supporting high quality programs and projects that address the needs of our community"

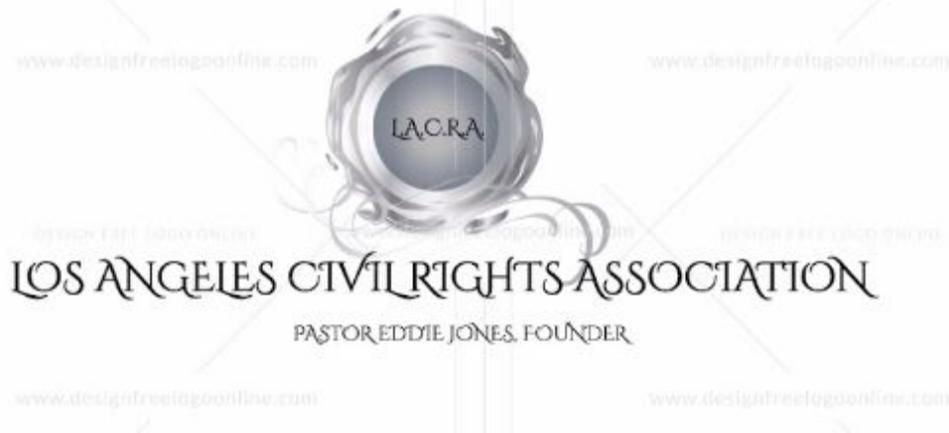
Communication from Public

Name: Los Angeles Civil Rights Association, Building a Safer Los Angeles Letter of Support

Date Submitted: 12/03/2019 10:10 AM

Council File No: 19-0603

Comments for Public Posting: See attached for LA Civil Rights Association letter of support for Building a Safer Los Angeles



October 26, 2017

Dear Councilmembers Blumenfield and Huizar,

It has come to my attention that you are considering a new ordinance that will require new developments of multi-level residential and commercial buildings to apply higher standards of safety and security, regarding the use of the strongest and most durable materials available.

As a Pastor and as someone responsible for the health and welfare of my parishioners and with concern for the broader community of greater Los Angeles, I am reaching out to share my heartfelt support on this matter. By requiring developers to use concrete and steel in the foundation of new developments, you are assuring that our residents and workers have the best possible chance of managing and surviving a disaster in Los Angeles; a city prone to both fires and earthquakes.

I am particularly concerned for the many people of color, as so many live in multi-family housing, and I am confident that your leadership will set the highest standards of safety for the most vulnerable people in our city. As the Founder of the Los Angeles Civil Rights Association, I see this matter as an issue of civil and human rights- we cannot sacrifice the safety of our residents and workers. I understand that many big cities across the United States already have such standards in place, and with the great risks we experience here in Los Angeles, I am sure there is no good reason not to employ the highest standards and require developers to use the most durable and long-lasting materials.

I am proud of our city and the dedication of City Council in making sure we give folks the best chances possible to survive and thrive. I support the Build With Strength campaign and I am counting on the strength and integrity of your leadership to see this ordinance through.

Most Sincerely,

Pastor Eddie Jones
Founder, Los Angeles Civil Rights Association

Communication from Public

Name: Southern California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Date Submitted: 12/03/2019 10:16 AM
Council File No: 19-0603
Comments for Public Posting: See attached for Southern California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for letter of support for Building a Safer Los Angeles.



Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Council member, Third District
City Hall
200 N. Spring St. #415
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield,

We are excited to join a coalition representing, community based organizations, businesses, labor and many other organizations throughout Los Angeles, reaching out to support our City Council and other elected leaders in moving toward a safer and more sustainable standard for low-rise building developments in Los Angeles.

We support the efforts of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield to ensure the safety and reliability of multi-family residences in Los Angeles. Requiring development that utilizes the safest and most reliable processes in the development of multi-family housing is an essential step forward for the future and health of our city. It's important that these new developments meet or exceed the existing building codes, and that the City of Los Angeles encourage the use of non-combustible materials which heavily reduces the risks associated with fires and earthquakes; both major factors of concern in our city.

These factors are compounded by the dense populations in such buildings, increasing the concerns for safety and the need for standards to address them. The benefits of safer standards are important to so many communities, especially communities those at risk, low and moderate income communities and small and medium size businesses that often reside in many mixed use low-rise developments.

It is important that this program not be limited to the residents; workers involved in the development, management and emergency response programs, but to take into account all the many diverse communities that make Los Angeles so great. And whatever regulations that are put in place, should embrace the need to continue the positive growth that Los Angeles is experiencing, as well as working collaboratively with all the many interests that will benefit from continued robust economic growth.

We encourage Councilmember Blumenfield and his fellow council members to move forward aggressively to support these efforts and support the efforts of Build with Strength - Los Angeles to improve building and fire safety regulations in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Teresa Barahona
Southern California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
President

Communication from Public

Name: Tarzana Property Owners Association Letter of Support for Building a Safer Los Angeles
Date Submitted: 12/03/2019 10:18 AM
Council File No: 19-0603
Comments for Public Posting: Attached is Tarzana Property Owners Association letter of support for Building a Safer Los Angeles.



Tarzana Property Owners Association, Inc.

May 20, 2018

Councilman Bob Blumenfield
Los Angeles City Hall, Room 415
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield,

The Tarzana Property Owners Association (TPOA) supports the efforts of *Build with Strength Los Angeles*, a coalition representing community-based organizations, small businesses, and labor unions throughout Los Angeles to encourage the Los Angeles City Council to strengthen fire safety standards by enacting a stronger code for the use of non-combustible building materials in the construction of low to mid-rise buildings. In TPOA's 45-year history, we have worked with developers and government agencies to improve Building and Safety regulations that preserve our unique community in the face of development, fires, and major earthquakes.

We support these efforts and recognize that by requiring developers to utilize less combustible materials, like concrete, steel, and treated wood in the construction of buildings, fires can be prevented or compartmentalized. Furthermore, these materials have the strength and durability to better protect the communities of Los Angeles in the event of a major earthquake.

An ordinance enacting stronger safety codes ensures greater safety for the diverse families in housing complexes, and businesses in multi-unit buildings. Note that the ordinance does not include single family structures, which are the majority of residential structures in Tarzana, reducing the cost of construction of these buildings which do not pose the same serious threat to neighbors as multi-family structures. We also encourage surveillance of buildings under construction, either by on-site presence for larger structures or by camera surveillance for single family structures and small multi-family structures.

We encourage the *Build with Strength Los Angeles* campaign and urge the Los Angeles City Council to enact safer, more sustainable building and fire standards for low to mid-rise multi-family developments and commercial structures throughout our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David R. Garfinkle".

David R. Garfinkle
President, Tarzana Property Owners Association