

Communication from Public

Name: CD4 Mom and Pop Landlord
Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 09:02 PM
Council File No: 19-0623
Comments for Public Posting: Please vote no. Mom and pop landlords are in a tight pinch already due to COVID-19 and the additional burdens placed on RSO units.

Communication from Public

Name: Jaileen

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 11:54 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Jaileen Gutierrez and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for putting the Vacancy Tax on the ballot for Angelenos to vote on. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. There are over 100,000 vacant housing units in the City of Los Angeles according to the most recent census bureau data. If they were released into the rental market, they could substantially help stem the tide of rent burdening and houselessness that afflict Angelenos. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 12:57 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, I am a resident of Los Angeles, writing to you today to insist that you and your fellow councilmembers hear the people of the City of Los Angeles in their demands for a People's Budget. Today, I urge you to support the Healthy LA Coalition, and do so by PUTTING A VACANCY TAX ON THE BALLOT for Angelenos to vote on in the upcoming election. There are 58,000 homeless people living in Los Angeles. There are 100,000 vacant LA Housing units (most recent census bureau data). While the strategy of addressing the vast problem of homelessness in our city is not always clear, this disparity is both stark and unignorable. If housing solutions will not be addressed with this gross disparity, then the city should financially leverage that delta to help provide much needed care and assistance to those who will be stricken hardest during this global pandemic. By implementing a Vacancy Tax on the renters, it will also help curb the wave of evictions predicted to occur as a direct result of COVID-19. Now is when the people of Los Angeles need you most. Please throw your firm support behind putting a VACANCY TAX on the ballot.

Communication from Public

Name: Weston Gaylord

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 11:23 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Weston Gaylord and I am in strong support of putting a Vacancy Tax on the November 2020 ballot for LA residents to vote on. We have 100,000 empty units in the city of LA, at a time when the city's unhoused population is at its most vulnerable. The Vacancy Tax would provide needed revenue for the city and help prevent a wave of evictions related to COVID-19. This is a no-brainer: a Vacancy Tax must go on the November 2020 ballot so LA residents can make their voices heard.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Latin-Kasper

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 12:33 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I want to strongly urge the council to vote yes on item no. 33. I am disturbed by the push of councilman Lee, Krekorian and Cedillo to not move forward on this item when there is a dire need to act right now. The number of homeless people in this city has increased by over 7,000 since January 2020- NOT including those who've become unhoused due to Covid-19. Council member Lee suggest giving more "incentives" to developers and owners of large luxury complexes. Are you kidding? We should give MORE tax breaks to these people than we already do? This is ridiculous. These millionaire and billionaire developers need to start paying their fair share in taxes and the vacancy tax would help to get us in the right direction. Obviously we want to avoid loopholes- but you're not going to write a perfect bill. Allow there to be room to deal with those specific issues as they come up. I work in operations, I understand risk assessment and it is important to put forth the best version of something possible. However, the longer we drag this out the more time we allow for the people and groups with deep pockets to launch a campaign against this at the expense of the people who are in desperate need of housing. By the way- what happened to all of the money from HHH?? How are we in a worse place than when we passed HHH? As a renter in district 1, I have been displaced several times due to developers moving in driving up prices in neighborhoods while the majority of their "luxury buildings" sit vacant because they don't want to rent to a certain group of people AKA the people that need housing the most. The people that keep getting displaced because all affordable housing is disappearing in our communities. We need you to act now. We need you to work harder than you have ever worked before to get this to a place where it can be on the ballot for voters in a November. If we wait until it's "perfect", it will never happen. Do the research, get to work, work long hours and get it done by July 1st. It's your job.

Communication from Public

Name: Lauren Kubota

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 12:40 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Regarding Item No. 19-0623 of the 06/16/20 Meeting Agenda:
Dear Councilmembers: I'm a constituent in CD 13 and I'm listening to your meeting discussions, and am writing to urge you to not further delay legislation and a decision on the vacancy tax. Whether you decide to take a vote or make the ordinance a ballot measure, you need to finish the job now. You have a rare opportunity to do the right thing before it's too late. Don't waste it. A vacancy tax is desperately needed in one of the tightest housing markets in the world in the middle of a recession caused by a pandemic and a mounting homelessness crisis. You have had a year to work on the details of this legislation but some of your members are suddenly "worried" about the research, legal issues, drafting language, exemptions, and the political popularity of a measure that your citizens have desperately needed for years. You are very publicly failing at your jobs if you aren't able to put the hard work into this necessary ordinance now. Get to it, come to an agreement, and don't let your failures yet again hurt the citizens you are supposed to represent. If anything, the revenue should be very attractive. Thank you for considering my comment.

Communication from Public

Name: Julianna Kufeldt

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 11:06 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, We need to have penalties for vacant units. Housing insecurity increases each year in LA - this is disgraceful. We need care for people and waiting until a pandemic is not the answer! Also we need to control and minimize the building of new units- LA has beautiful building and there are many loft type apartments being built sitting empty. We need to appreciate old LA! Hold people accountable for empty units when people are sleeping on the streets! and in general comments- please adopt the people's budget. This is what the people in LA want and need. i yield my time, fuck you. - Julianna Kufeldt

Communication from Public

Name: Abigail Coleman
Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 11:06 AM
Council File No: 19-0623
Comments for Public Posting: WE WANT A VACANCY TAX!!!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Cody Cushing
Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 10:14 AM
Council File No: 19-0623
Comments for Public Posting: I fully support having the vacancy tax on the November 2020 ballot.

Communication from Public

Name: Grace Cho
Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 10:11 AM
Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I wanted to express my strong support of item 33 as a member of LA Voice and the Healthy LA Coalition. I live in the portion of Koreatown located in CD4, Councilmember Ryu's district, and I see so many high-end units under construction or newly built. I wonder how many of the units are filled and how much these units are driving up the cost of rent for the many low- and middle-income individuals who live in my neighborhood. It is not right for developers to sit on vacant luxury units and keep rents high even though we are in a housing crisis and a global pandemic that should be reducing demand for price. My interest in a vacancy tax comes from my training as an urban planner, my work in the affordable housing industry, and wanting to be a good neighbor as a person of faith. We must do what we can to alleviate the affordability and homelessness crises, and collecting better information on vacancies in the city and having a penalty for empty units is a good place to start. Our coalition is calling for putting the Vacancy Tax on the ballot for Angelenos to vote on. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. There are over 100,000 vacant housing units in the City of Los Angeles according to the most recent census bureau data. If they were released into the rental market, they could substantially help stem the tide of rent burdening and homelessness that afflict Angelenos. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Mary Leslie

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 10:27 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: The LABC has long believed in and advocated for creating incentives to spur the development of affordable and workforce housing. We are concerned that the vacancy tax measure, as written, would create the opposite result and set Los Angeles back in the need to create 500,000 new housing units to address the severe housing affordability imbalance. The vacancy tax adds another cost in the second most expensive to build market in the US. The concept would be much stronger if implemented with incentives like flexible up zoning and by-right developments that would enable the highest and best use of land, including building workforce and affordable housing in communities throughout the City – including communities that have long fought affordable housing. Many important questions are being raised about the proposed ballot measure, including undertaking a financial analysis to understand the impact on the cost of building new housing, who will pay the tax, the City’s process for identifying properties subject to the tax, the actual uses for the special tax, when the provisions would sunset, what type of oversight would need to be set up to collect and distribute the funds, and what – if any – exemptions apply. As an organization that cares deeply about bridging the housing affordability gap, we would prefer to see an inclusive process that brings diverse stakeholders to the table to shape the vacancy tax around the huge need that exists for affordable housing instead of one that feels rushed, narrow and incomplete.

Communication from Public

Name: Alex
Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 10:28 AM
Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Alex and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for putting the Vacancy Tax on the ballot for Angelenos to vote on. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. There are over 100,000 vacant housing units in the City of Los Angeles according to the most recent census bureau data. If they were released into the rental market, they could substantially help stem the tide of rent burdening and houselessness that afflict Angelenos. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 10:29 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Sarah and I live in Councilmember O'Farrell's district. I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for putting the Vacancy Tax on the ballot for Angelenos to vote on. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. There are over 100,000 vacant housing units in the City of Los Angeles according to the most recent census bureau data. If they were released into the rental market, they could substantially help stem the tide of rent burdening and houselessness that afflict Angelenos. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Lindsley Metellus

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 10:35 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Lindsley Eddy Metellus and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for putting the Vacancy Tax on the ballot for Angelenos to vote on. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. There are over 100,000 vacant housing units in the City of Los Angeles according to the most recent census bureau data. If they were released into the rental market, they could substantially help stem the tide of rent burdening and houselessness that afflict Angelenos. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: S. Trani

Date Submitted: 06/15/2020 03:06 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council: I strongly oppose the proposal to place a vacancy tax on the November 2020 ballot. I am struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I had another tenant give notice today and will be moving out. This is a difficult time with the pandemic to find qualified tenants. It is an added strain to an already stressful period to impose a tax on property owners that have vacant units. We are in the business of renting units, not leaving them vacant. This is a burdensome regulation proposed to be put on landlords. Please support our business of providing housing and not weigh us down with burdensome regulation. My brother just sold a 2 unit building in the City of Los Angeles and is looking to invest outside of City of Los Angeles because of the oppressive ordinances HCID+LA has mandated. Thank you. S. Trani

Communication from Public

Name: Diana Coronado

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 07:27 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Attached is Building Industry Association's letter on the City's proposed vacancy tax and empty homes penalty. We are asking the City not to include the vacancy tax to the November 2020 ballot. We look forward to working with the City on this policy and hope to participate in a robust stakeholder process. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Thank you, Diana Diana Victoria Coronado Building Industry Association Los Angeles/Ventura Chapter dcoronado@bialav.org



Los Angeles/Ventura Chapter

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Rick White, Larrabure Framing

June 16, 2020

Council President Nury Martinez
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring St, Ste 470,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: BIA-LAV Letter - Empty Homes Penalty / Vacant and Habitable Housing Units (Council File: 19-0623) – OPPOSE

Dear Council President Martinez,

The Los Angeles/Ventura Chapter of the Building Industry Association of Southern California, Inc. (BIA-LAV), is a non-profit trade association focused on building housing for all. On behalf of our membership, we would like to respectfully express opposition to the City's proposed "Empty Homes Penalty / Vacant and Habitable Housing Units" proposal.

We request that the City move deliberation on this item beyond the 2020 ballot qualification deadline. This will allow City staff to produce a more thorough report and allow for true stakeholder engagement. Unfortunately, this proposal is being rushed through the policy process and has been introduced with limited and uncertain information. In tandem with our request we have listed our comments and concerns below:

1. Data Inconsistencies & Unclear Policy Structure: According to the City's Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) [report](#), there is no one reliable source for vacancy data. In fact, the report cites that their data varies widely across the four sources used. Crafting a policy based on limited data and uncertain accuracy incurs several challenges. This proposal has been developed as a solution without fully understanding the problem of vacancy. There could be many different resolutions in addressing the perceived concerns of vacancy outside of a tax.

In addition to research-based challenges, there are several policy structure decisions that must be evaluated within a condensed timeframe. These choices stand to have long-term impacts on the future of housing in the City. According to the City's Legislative Analyst's Office



Los Angeles/Ventura Chapter

[report](#), the policy questions include, but are not limited to; the definition of “vacant” and/or “underutilized”, the process for identifying properties subject to the tax, tax rates, and uses for the tax revenue. Stakeholders need clarity on why this tax is being pursued, what will be subject to this tax and how they will be affected. By the same token, policy makers would benefit from understanding how these actions will impact their constituents and districts ahead of voting on a policy. If the Council can deliberate on this measure past the 2020 ballot, the City can more accurately quantify and assess a clear data set and hear from those being affected by this proposal. This would help to determine the severity of the problem and could inform a more precise solution.

2. Cost of Housing: Imposing a tax of this magnitude on home builders could further impair the production of housing, which could result in the opposite effect of its intention. The HCID report reviews the types of units produced between 2016 and 2019, highlighting the lack of supply in the “mid- and lower-ends” of the market. What is not discussed in the report are the reasons for this difference. In order to meet the City’s regulatory requirements, the time and costs associated with residential production make it financially infeasible to produce the described “mid to lower” housing options. Policies, such as this potential vacancy tax, make it expensive to build housing and still deliver a product that’s attainable to middle-income earners. According to a recent [paper](#) by the National Bureau of Economic Research, evidence suggests that zoning and other land use controls, play the dominant role in making housing expensive; this is on the heels of Berkeley’s Turner Center [study](#) on cities’ housing impact fees. The City of Los Angeles, among others, is now in a situation where home builders are either building subsidized housing or luxury housing, resulting in the minimal growth of middle-income housing units.

Aside from the increased costs to housing, a vacancy tax would create more hurdles to production by adding administrative processes and bureaucracy that didn’t exist before. The entitlement process can already be lengthy, expensive and challenging to maneuver, adding a compliance mechanism for a vacancy tax will add another layer to that system. In order to house more people, more quickly we need to reduce processing times – not add to them. We are encouraged when the City utilizes incentive-based solutions to mitigate challenges, as demonstrated by the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) program. Unfortunately, this proposal does not follow that course. Instead, the vacancy tax applies more fees and time constraints to residential development. This will likely make the situation worse, not better.

3. Costs to City: Due to COVID-19, the City, like so many others, is facing serious financial challenges. The recently [proposed budget](#) reportedly cut nearly \$230 million from City spending. The pandemic has depleted the City’s rainy-day fund and hurt the City’s projected tax revenue. The Mayor has even introduced a plan to furlough nearly 15,000 employees. Amid these difficulties, a [memo](#) released by the LA City Clerk warns that adding one ballot measure to the City’s General Election would be approximately \$12 million. This could be the reality if the proposed vacancy



Los Angeles/Ventura Chapter

tax was included on the November 2020 ballot. In particular, this variance causes reason to pause and truly evaluate our earlier expressed concerns related to the complexities of this measure.

We are deeply troubled by the possibility of this proposal being put on the ballot in an unnecessarily rushed process. The data inconsistencies, unclear policy structure and costs associated to home building and to the City have made it clear that now is not the right time to move this measure forward. For these reasons, we are asking the City not to include the “Empty Homes Penalty/ Vacant and Habitable Housing Units” item to the November 2020 ballot. We look forward to working with the City on this policy and hope to participate in a robust stakeholder process. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please contact BIA-LAV Vice President, Diana Coronado, at dcoronado@bialav.org.

Sincerely,

Diana Victoria Coronado
Vice President
BIA-Los Angeles/Ventura

CC:

The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor
The Honorable Gil Cedillo, Councilmember
The Honorable Paul Krekorian, Councilmember
The Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember
The Honorable David Ryu, Councilmember
The Honorable Paul Koretz, Councilmember
The Honorable Monica Rodriguez, Councilmember
The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilmember
The Honorable Curren Price, Councilmember
The Honorable Herb Wesson, Council President
The Honorable Mike Bonin, Councilmember
The Honorable John Lee, Councilmember
The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember
The Honorable Jose Huizar, Councilmember
The Honorable Joe Buscaino, Councilmember
Holly L. Wolcott, Los Angeles City Clerk

Sent via e-mail

Communication from Public

Name: CCA
Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 07:37 AM
Council File No: 19-0623
Comments for Public Posting: Letter attached.



June 15, 2020

Councilmember Mike Bonin
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Item 33, Vacancy Tax & Empty Homes Penalty – Request to Delay Action

Dear Councilmember Bonin,

Established in 1924, Central City Association (CCA) is an advocacy organization committed to enhancing Downtown's vibrancy and increasing investment in the region. We are a membership organization and represent approximately 400 businesses, nonprofits, and trade organizations. **We write to respectfully request that the Vacancy Tax and Empty Homes Penalty proposal be delayed for further discussions. Given the constrained timeline to place this initiative on the November 3, 2020 ballot and the unknown impacts related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, we urge you to delay acting on this item.**

To have this item placed on the November 2020 ballot, the City Council would need to adopt an election resolution by July 1, which leaves little to no time to discuss the important details of this proposal. The report from the Chief Legislative Analyst clearly lays out many of the challenges and potential impacts of a Vacancy Tax and Empty Homes Penalty. We believe this item would benefit from input from community stakeholders, renters, and property owners. We encourage you to convene these entities to discuss a series of specifics and questions to determine if this complex item should be placed on the ballot.

Key Questions

- Would this initiative apply to vacant land, commercial and residential properties? If so, must the land/property need to be a certain size or square footage? Should the residential only apply to multifamily residential properties with a certain number of units?
- Will the ownership of land, commercial and residential properties be taken into consideration? For example, would mom-and-pop residential landlords be exempted?
- What is the appropriate tax rate? How would it be calculated? For example, would it be based on land value, size of parcel or improved square footage?
- How would the City determine vacant properties for assessment? What would that require for staff resources and how effectively can the City assess vacancy?
- What is the efficacy of vacancy taxes in other municipalities where they have been adopted?

We look forward to a continued dialogue and thank you for your time and hard work on this item.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Lall'.

Jessica Lall
President & CEO



Cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Council President Nury Martinez
Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council

Communication from Public

Name: Maryam Hosseinzadeh

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 08:40 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Maryam Hosseinzadeh and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for putting the Vacancy Tax on the ballot for Angelenos to vote on. A Vacancy Tax on residential and commercial vacant property will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. There are over 100,000 vacant housing units in the City of Los Angeles according to the most recent census bureau data. If they were released into the rental market, they could substantially help stem the tide of rent burdening and homelessness that afflict Angelenos. In addition, high commercial rent rates potentials are often the cause speculative eviction of long-time small businesses and “high-rent blight” that enables landlords to take advantage allowing buildings to sit empty and unused when they could otherwise be providing jobs, small business opportunities, and otherwise acting as sources of community stability. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Jerard Wright

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 09:26 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of BizFed, a grassroots alliance of more than 190 business organizations representing over 400,000 employers with nearly 3.5 million employees in LA County, we are writing express concerns of the process on Item 33 that will be heard in the Committee on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 and urge that you delay consideration of placing this item to the voters this November 2020. Our concern stems from the rushed process and information sharing with the public on the “Empty Homes Penalty / Vacant and Habitable Housing Units” proposal and has been introduced with limited and uncertain information. We have only received the first published document from the Chief Legislative Analyst report on June 9th and received on the City’s website the CAO’s late Friday afternoon, June 12th for a possible voter initiative this November.

June 16, 2020

The Honorable Council President Nury Martinez
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring St, Suite 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File: 19-0623, Empty Homes Penalty / Vacant and Habitable Housing Units (DELAY CONSIDERATION)

Dear Council President Martinez and the LA City Council,

On behalf of BizFed, a grassroots alliance of more than 190 business organizations representing over 400,000 employers with nearly 3.5 million employees in LA County, we are writing express concerns of the process on Item 33 that will be heard in the Committee on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 and urge that you delay consideration of placing this item to the voters this November 2020.

Our concern stems from the rushed process and information sharing with the public on the "Empty Homes Penalty / Vacant and Habitable Housing Units" proposal and has been introduced with limited and uncertain information. We have only received the first published document from the Chief Legislative Analyst report on June 9th and received on the City's website the CAO's late Friday afternoon, June 12th for a possible voter approved initiative this November.

We request that the City Council to move deliberation on this item beyond the 2020 ballot qualification deadline. This will allow City staff to produce a more thorough report and allow for true stakeholder engagement with all parties including the business and building development community.

In addition, the optics and timing of considering a tax on residential vacancies in a time of a health pandemic and economic uncertainty is a recipe that will hurt more Angelenos than help. Taxing vacant housing units in a region where according to the City Controllers' office each affordable housing unit cost nearly \$700,000 to produce will exacerbate our housing affordability and availability crisis.

We ask that this process should not be rushed and deserves more stakeholder input which this time of crisis will allow. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sandy Sanchez
BizFed Chair
FivePoint



David Fleming
BizFed Founding Chair



Tracy Hernandez
BizFed Founding CEO
IMPOWER, Inc.

CC: The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor
The Honorable Gil Cedillo, Councilmember
The Honorable Paul Krekorian, Councilmember
The Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember
The Honorable David Ryu, Councilmember
The Honorable Paul Koretz, Councilmember
The Honorable Monica Rodriguez, Councilmember
The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson,
Councilmember

The Honorable Curren Price, Councilmember
The Honorable Herb Wesson, Council President
The Honorable Mike Bonin, Councilmember
The Honorable John Lee, Councilmember
The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember
The Honorable Jose Huizar, Councilmember
The Honorable Joe Buscaino, Councilmember
Holly L. Wolcott, Los Angeles City Clerk
Sent via e-mail

BizFed Association Members

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Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
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American Institute of Architects – Los Angeles
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Friends of Hollywood Central Park
Fur Information Council of America
FuturePorts
Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce
Gateway to LA
Glendale Association of REALTORS
Glendale Chamber of Commerce
Glendora Chamber of Commerce
Greater Antelope Valley Association of REALTORS
Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber
Greater Los Angeles Association of REALTORS
Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association
Harbor Trucking Association
Historic Core Business Improvement District
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Hollywood Property Owners Alliance
Hong Kong Trade Development Council
Hospital Association of Southern California
Hotel Association of Los Angeles
Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce
Independent Cities Association
Industry Manufacturers Council
Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce
Inland Empire Economic Partnership
International Warehouse Logistics Association
Irwindale Chamber of Commerce
La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce
L.A. County Medical Association
L.A. Fashion District BID
L.A. South Chamber of Commerce
Larchmont Boulevard Association
Latino Food Industry Association
LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce
League of California Cities
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Board of Real Estate
Los Angeles County Waste Management Association
Los Angeles Gateway Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Parking Association
Maple Business Council
Motion Picture Association of America
MoveLA a Project of Community
NAIOP Southern California Chapter
National Association of Royalty Owners
National Association of Tobacco Outlets
National Association of Women Business Owners
National Association of Women Business Owners – Los Angeles

National Hispanic Medical Association
National Latina Business Women
Orange County Business Council
Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce
Panorama City Chamber of Commerce
Paramount Chamber of Commerce
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Pasadena-Foothills Association of Realtors
PhRMA
Planned Parenthood Southern Affiliates of California
Pomona Chamber of Commerce
Propel L.A.
Rancho Southeast Association of REALTORS
Recording Industry Association of America
Regional Black Chamber - San Fernando Valley
Regional Chamber of Commerce-San Gabriel Valley
Rosemead Chamber of Commerce
San Dimas Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Pedro Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp.
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers
South Bay Association of REALTORS
South Gate Chamber of Commerce
Southern California Contractors Association
Southern California Golf Association
Southern California Grant Makers
Southern California Leadership Council
Southern California Minority Suppliers Development Council Inc. +
Southern California Water Coalition
Southland Regional Association of REALTORS
Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce
The Young Professionals at the Petroleum Club
Torrance Area Chamber
Town Hall Los Angeles
Tri-Counties Association of REALTORS
United Chambers San Fernando Valley & Region
United States-Mexico Chamber
Unmanned Autonomous Vehicle Systems Association
US Resiliency Council
Valley Economic Alliance
Valley Industry & Commerce Association
Vernon Chamber of Commerce
Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce
Warner Center Association
West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
West San Gabriel Valley Association of REALTORS
West Valley/Warner Center Association Chamber
Western Manufactured Housing Association
Western States Petroleum Association
Westside Council of Chambers
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Village Rotary Club
Whittier Chamber of Commerce
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
World Trade Center Los Angeles
Young Professionals in Energy - LA Chapter

Communication from Public

Name: Christina V. Davis
Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 09:35 AM
Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: It has just been brought to our attention that the City Council plans to vote today to put a vacancy tax on the November 2020 ballot that would come in the form of a parcel tax for property owners. The LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce representing over 600 businesses near LAX would like to register our strong opposition to this proposed vacancy tax. With no effective measures put into place to account for allocation delays, city fee increases as well as, the costs associated with higher green code compliance and prevailing wages (which were never completed identified nor conveyed), this does not seem like a well thought out plan. This will also deter development from the City and will make it even less desirable to build housing in Los Angeles while we are in the midst of a housing crisis. Last but not least, there has been no stakeholder input. We would like to understand the impacts to business and how this would be imposed. A vacancy tax is not the solution! At a time when store-owners are having to shut down, and property owners are losing tenants imposing a vacancy tax is not the way to get our economy up and running. Please register our **STRONG OPPOSITION** to this motion.
Christina V. Davis President/CEO LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce 9100 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Ste. 210 Los Angeles, CA 90045 P: 310.645.5151 C: 310.529.7331 www.laxcoastal.com

Communication from Public

Name: Taylor Spaur

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 09:53 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Taylor and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for putting the Vacancy Tax on the ballot for Angelenos to vote on. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. There are over 100,000 vacant housing units in the City of Los Angeles according to the most recent census bureau data. If they were released into the rental market, they could substantially help stem the tide of rent burdening and houselessness that afflict Angelenos. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Colleen Evanson

Date Submitted: 06/16/2020 10:00 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: To Whom It May Concern, I am a resident and constituent living in District 2. Today I am emailing to show my support for the vacancy tax. Holding big developers and land lords accountable for insane rent rates and vacant units is a small but necessary step in housing placement and helping to solve our ever growing housing crisis. As the director of People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER), Bill Przylucki, said “We need to change our structures to incentivize the housing market to actually produce housing for people, not just profit for investors.” I hope to see this on the ballot soon. Thank you for your time and service. Colleen Evanson