

Communication from Public

Name: Anthony Dedousis
Date Submitted: 06/23/2021 08:54 AM
Council File No: 20-0102
Comments for Public Posting: Hello, Please see attached for Abundant Housing LA's letter SUPPORTING the proposed right to housing ordinance. Thank you, Anthony Dedousis



June 23, 2021

Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CF 20-0102 – Comprehensive Crisis Response Strategy/Right to Housing – SUPPORT

Dear Councilmember Ridley-Thomas,

Abundant Housing LA is a pro-housing, nonprofit advocacy organization working to help solve Southern California's housing crisis. Our organization supports more housing at all levels of affordability and reforms to land use and zoning codes, which are needed in order to make housing more affordable, improve access to jobs and transit, promote greater environmental sustainability, and advance racial and economic equity.

We write in support of your proposal to establish a legislative, budgetary, administrative and policy framework to provide a Right to Housing for all Los Angeles residents.

California leads the nation in the total number of people experiencing homelessness, with one in four Americans experiencing homelessness residing in California. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened our homelessness crisis by putting hundreds of thousands of Californians into financial distress and at risk of homelessness. Therefore, the need to address the homelessness crisis with urgency and innovative solutions at this moment is critical.

We support your goal of creating a cohesive framework to organize the City's response to the homelessness crisis, including strengthening prevention, street engagement, interim housing, and permanent affordable and supportive housing. **We also want to highlight the need to urgently address the root causes of Los Angeles' housing shortage and affordability crisis.** Study after study have found that high housing costs, rents, and poverty rates, as well as below-average homebuilding, all correlate with high homelessness.

Therefore, the City needs to immediately adopt fundamental reforms to zoning and land use that encourage new housing production at all levels of income. This is necessary in order to lower housing costs, reduce housing insecurity, and prevent homelessness. Adopting an ambitious, transformative housing element update **this year**, which requires the City to plan for 456,000 new homes by 2029, including 184,000 that are affordable to lower-income households, is an important first step that can be undertaken **right now**. The City must also quickly implement a citywide rezoning strategy in order to accommodate the full RHNA target, rather than delaying

until October 2024. In parallel, we must also adopt policies that promote safe, stable permanent housing for Angelenos experiencing housing instability or homelessness.

Achieving the production of housing that we need and making housing affordable to all will take years, and so it's critical that we start today. We can't wait decades to start to undo the status quo of land use and zoning that perpetuates racism, segregation, and housing scarcity. Already, too many people are being displaced.

We are committed to contributing to solutions to the homelessness crisis, and we believe that your motion will help to further this important goal. Thank you for bringing this important motion forward, which we are proud to support.

Sincerely,

Leonora Camner
Executive Director
Abundant Housing LA

Anthony Dedousis
Director of Policy and Research
Abundant Housing LA

Communication from Public

Name: Elaine Loring

Date Submitted: 06/23/2021 12:19 PM

Council File No: 20-0102

Comments for Public Posting: I support a cohesive framework to organize the City's response to the homelessness crisis, including strengthening prevention, street engagement, interim housing, and most importantly permanent affordable and supportive housing. To reduce & prevent homelessness, the City needs to codify a tenants' right to counsel and immediately & fundamentally reform zoning and land use to encourage new housing production at levels low and mid income people can afford. Adopting a transformative Housing Element this year would be a good start.