

Communication from Public

Name: Maria Gutierrez
Date Submitted: 06/17/2020 11:12 AM
Council File No: 20-0713

Comments for Public Posting: I was cut off from giving public comment even though I followed all the indications, so therefore attached is my comment. Thank you! My name is Maria Patiño Gutierrez and I am in support of this very important motion as community land trusts are organizations committed to keeping land in the hands of the community for community benefit such as for building much needed affordable housing in our communities. We further encourage the Council to expand this motion city wide. We also believe that the city should include in the list of sites, those sites that are former CRA sites originally intended for affordable housing. There are some sites that have recently been slated for development other than affordable housing, such as the former Bethune Library site in CD8. For decades, community members have called on the city to use the land for affordable housing. While the CRA was still intact, a local community land trust was just steps away from gaining site control on the Bethune site when the CRA was dissolved by Governor Brown. Sites like these should be included in the list of sites to be transferred to Community Land Trust's. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Erlich

Date Submitted: 06/17/2020 11:34 AM

Council File No: 20-0713

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Sarah Erlich, an attorney from Public Counsel and a member of the United Neighbors in Defense Against Displacement coalition, which was formed to prevent displacement and promote equitable development in South Central Los Angeles. I am writing to express the coalition's strong support for Agenda Item #20, the motion Councilmembers Harris-Dawson, Cedillo, and Wesson introduced regarding the donation of surplus land to community land trusts in Council Districts 1, 8, and 10 to address those residents' needs, including for affordable housing development. Institutionalized racism has created housing instability and residential segregation in Los Angeles. Community land trusts are invaluable resources to create and preserve affordable housing, and prevent displacement of low-income communities of color. Access to affordable housing is also a social determinant of health. There are many parcels of public land in the City of Los Angeles that should be considered for donation to community land trusts for the development of affordable housing. The Bethune Library site in Council District 8, formerly home to a library named after an African American civil rights activist and educator, was previously slated for affordable housing development by a community land trust, but currently is proposed to be developed into a luxury hotel. The area surrounding the site has experienced massive displacement, increases in the population of unhoused individuals and families, and a huge affordable housing shortage. We strongly urge the Council to include the Bethune Library Site on the list of available surplus property. Doing so is in line with the Surplus Land Act. We also encourage the Council to expand the scope of this motion city-wide. Thank you.