

Communication from Public

Name: Mikayla Gibson

Date Submitted: 03/03/2026 10:53 AM

Council File No: 20-1084-S4

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) we are writing to urge greater scrutiny and transparency in the City's contracting practices. Recent media reports have highlighted situations in which organizations receiving City contracts and taxpayer funds have simultaneously engaged in advocacy, litigation, or lobbying related to City policies. Civic engagement is an important part of our democratic process but, the use of public funds in circumstances that may present conflicts of interest, or the appearance of such conflicts, warrants careful review. Public contracts should advance clearly adopted City goals and deliver measurable benefits to residents. When a contractor is actively advocating positions that conflict with those goals or seeks to influence decisions tied to its own contractual interests, it raises questions about alignment, accountability, and oversight. Even the perception of a conflict erodes public trust. The Council must conduct a thorough review of contracting policies to ensure that safeguards are in place to identify, disclose, and address potential conflicts of interest. Contractors that engage in lobbying activities should be required to comply fully with the Los Angeles Municipal Lobbying Ordinance. Taxpayers deserve assurance that public funds are used solely to advance the City's stated priorities and that contracting decisions are free from political entanglements. We respectfully urge the Council to take steps to reinforce transparency, consistency, and accountability in City contracting. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.



March 3, 2026

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: COUNCIL ITEM 20-1084-S4 — REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Dear City Council,

On behalf of Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) we are writing to urge greater scrutiny and transparency in the City's contracting practices.

Recent media reports have highlighted situations in which organizations receiving City contracts and taxpayer funds have simultaneously engaged in advocacy, litigation, or lobbying related to City policies. Civic engagement is an important part of our democratic process but, the use of public funds in circumstances that may present conflicts of interest, or the appearance of such conflicts, warrants careful review.

Public contracts should advance clearly adopted City goals and deliver measurable benefits to residents. When a contractor is actively advocating positions that conflict with those goals or seeks to influence decisions tied to its own contractual interests, it raises questions about alignment, accountability, and oversight. Even the perception of a conflict erodes public trust.

The Council must conduct a thorough review of contracting policies to ensure that safeguards are in place to identify, disclose, and address potential conflicts of interest. Contractors that engage in lobbying activities should be required to comply fully with the Los Angeles Municipal Lobbying Ordinance.

Taxpayers deserve assurance that public funds are used solely to advance the City's stated priorities and that contracting decisions are free from political entanglements. We respectfully urge the Council to take steps to reinforce transparency, consistency, and accountability in City contracting.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stuart Waldman
VICA President

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/03/2026 10:16 AM

Council File No: 20-1084-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Council President and Councilmembers, First, we want to thank LAHD and City Council for championing the Stay Housed LA eviction defense and outreach and education program for the last 5 years. Since 2020, SHLA's outreach, education and navigation efforts have reached 2.4 million tenants through phone, text, and inperson outreach, hosted over 2,000 educational workshops, and assisted over 30,000 tenants with legal services with 90% of these tenants remaining housed. Tenants would not have this upstream support protecting them from homelessness without the sustained trust, support, and funding from City of LA. It is due to this support from LAHD that Liberty Hill Foundation was able to submit a successful proposal bid to the City for the Eviction Defense RFP, resulting in an LAHD recommendation for City Council approval. Our CBO subcontractors have successfully conducted outreach, education, and tenant navigation and our programmatic staff have continuously evaluated our program impact all while respecting tenants' privacy through required Attorney-Client confidentiality. We have and can continue to adequately evaluate the success and impact of this program geographically through multiple jurisdictions without the need for client addresses. In fact, our partnership with 12 legal service providers over the past 5 years has remained successful because of the trust and parameters set by our legal partners. At a time when public trust in institutions is fragile, requiring client-level personally identifiable information from vulnerable tenants raises serious concerns and will have negative implications for our subcontractors, the City, but most of all the tenants who trusted us to offer support in a time of crisis. As a longstanding partner of LAFLA and 11 other legal service providers through the Stay Housed LA program, we have established an expectation from tenants that they will access legal services and education and tenant navigation without expense. This not only includes financial expenses but also at the expense of their personal identifiable information. Our legal partners agree that this request raises serious concerns and may unintentionally undermine tenant trust, and LHF and our CBO subcontractors agree that tenant trust in the SHLA program exists because of compliance with attorney/client confidentiality. This approach may have unintended negative consequences for tenants,

providers, and the City. Please reconsider this language by adopting the proposed amendments and executing the Eviction Defense Program and other United to House LA Homelessness Program Service Contracts promptly. We hope to continue our partnership with LAHD with trust and collaboration.



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Goldsmith

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March 03, 2026

Re: Public Comment: Council File: 20-1084-S4 – Authority to Execute Contract for Homelessness Prevention Program

Honorable Council President and Councilmembers,

First, we want to thank LAHD and City Council for championing the Stay Housed LA eviction defense and outreach and education program for the last 5 years. Since 2020, SHLA’s outreach, education and navigation efforts have reached 2.4 million tenants through phone, text, and in-person outreach, hosted over 2,000 educational workshops, and assisted over 30,000 tenants with legal services with 90% of these tenants remaining housed. Tenants would not have this upstream support protecting them from homelessness without the sustained trust, support, and funding from City of LA. It is due to this support from LAHD that Liberty Hill Foundation was able to submit a successful proposal bid to the City for the Eviction Defense RFP, resulting in an LAHD recommendation for City Council approval.

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At a time when public trust in institutions is fragile, requiring client-level personally identifiable information from vulnerable tenants raises serious concerns and will have negative implications for our subcontractors, the City, but most of all the tenants who trusted us to offer support in a time of crisis. As a longstanding partner of LAFLA and 11 other legal service providers through the Stay Housed LA program, we have established an expectation from tenants that they will access

legal services and education and tenant navigation without expense. This not only includes financial expenses but also at the expense of their personal identifiable information.

Our legal partners agree that this request raises serious concerns and may unintentionally undermine tenant trust, and LHF and our CBO subcontractors agree that tenant trust in the SHLA program exists because of compliance with attorney/client confidentiality. This approach may have unintended negative consequences for tenants, providers, and the City. Please reconsider this language by adopting the proposed amendments and executing the Eviction Defense Program and other United to House LA Homelessness Program Service Contracts promptly. We hope to continue our partnership with LAHD with trust and collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Goldsmith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Shane Goldsmith
President & CEO
Liberty Hill Foundation