



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

August 31, 2021

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Council File: 21-0002-S18, Resolution to Oppose SB-9 (Atkins);
Council File: 21-0002-S21, Resolution to Oppose SB-10 (Weiner)**

Honorable Members,

Our state faces a severe housing crisis. Angelenos — and all Californians — deserve to see us confronting that crisis with bold action that cements our commitment to making transformative change and correcting historical injustices. As a state and region, we have made dramatic changes to how we assess housing needs, with a shared understanding that we must build housing where it is most desperately needed — and that we must do so sustainably and, above all, in a way that takes on patterns of segregation, structural inequality and generational disadvantage. At the heart of this work is the reality that we will need to accommodate nearly 500,000 more homes over the next eight years, and we cannot afford to waste any time.

At last count, there were more than 161,000 unhoused residents of California, with 26% of that population residing in the City of Los Angeles. Across the state, fewer than a quarter of all households can afford to purchase a median-priced single-family home — 54% less than the national average. More than half of all households in Los Angeles — including 84% of low-income renter households — are cost-burdened, paying over 30% of their income toward housing. This cost burden is most disproportionately felt by women and communities of color.

Those figures are stark, and lay bare a simple fact: the lack of adequate, affordable housing is at the center of the crisis in Los Angeles. Currently, only 36% of all property

Honorable Members of the City Council

August 31, 2021

Page 2 of 2

within the City zoned for residential development allows for the construction of multifamily housing. And this land is not equitably distributed throughout the City: half of these sites are within the City's "Low Resource" or "High Segregation and Poverty" areas as identified by the State Tax Credit Allocation Committee and the Department of Housing and Community Development (TCAC/HCD) Opportunity Map — tellingly, not in higher-opportunity areas where the City can affirmatively advance fair housing and where it has been demonstrated that lower-income families have the best chance at economic advancement, high educational attainment, and recreation resources that lead to better physical and mental health.

The scale of these challenges means that SB-9 and SB-10 merit thoughtful consideration.

It is critical that any State housing legislation builds on our progress. While I share some concerns expressed by the City Council — particularly with respect to tenant protections and the consideration of minimum affordability requirements — I appreciate the legislation authors' willingness to engage with local governments and stakeholders to enhance the proposed bills by strengthening anti-displacement measures and accounting for local considerations like impacts to public health and safety, historic resources, and open space. With specific regard to SB-10, I commend the author for flexibility that would empower local jurisdictions to determine the regulations most appropriate to address local needs.

Though we have made significant strides in recent years — including the City Council's recent work to champion rental assistance to our most vulnerable neighbors and enhance our housing element process — much more work is needed to meaningfully improve the lives of Angelenos.

We must respond with the ingenuity and partnership needed to address this crisis, and can work together to support efforts to provide local jurisdictions with the tools needed to increase housing stock, meet the growing demand for affordability, prevent displacement, and expand opportunities for new homeownership.

It is with that hope that I return these resolutions that oppose SB-9 and SB-10 without signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Garcetti", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

ERIC GARCETTI

Mayor