

Communication from Public

Name: Marc

Date Submitted: 09/20/2021 11:23 AM

Council File No: 21-0863

Comments for Public Posting: I support & approve the important Housing Now legislation that funds quick access to housing and needed services, and use state and federal funds to purchase and quickly convert motels into housing with services

Communication from Public

Name: Anthony Dedousis

Date Submitted: 09/20/2021 01:56 PM

Council File No: 21-0863

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, Please see attached for Abundant Housing LA's letter SUPPORTING the proposed Housing Now program. Thank you,
Anthony Dedousis



September 20, 2021

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

CF 21-0863 - Housing Now Fund - 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 to express our strong support for your proposed motion to create the Housing Now Fund, which would increase funding for flexible rental subsidies to assist Angelenos experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The motion would aim to provide 10,000 flexible rental subsidies on an ongoing basis, expanding on the County's existing Housing for Health program.

California leads the nation in the total number of people experiencing homelessness, with one in four Americans experiencing homelessness residing in California. The need to address the homelessness crisis with urgency and innovative solutions at this moment is critical. Similarly to [New York City's CityFHEPS program](#), the proposed Housing Now Fund would improve vulnerable Angelenos' access to safe, stable housing and address one of the root causes of homelessness - namely, the fact that too many Angelenos are unable to afford quality housing.

The proposed Housing Now Fund is a necessary step towards solving our city's homelessness crisis. 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:

Date Submitted: 09/20/2021 02:42 PM

Council File No: 21-0863

Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to approve important Housing Now legislation that funds quick access to housing and needed services, and use state and federal funds to purchase and quickly convert motels into housing with services.

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer McElyea
Date Submitted: 09/20/2021 05:49 PM
Council File No: 21-0863
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter.



Los Angeles City Council
President Martinez
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

September 20, 2021

RE: Watt Investment Partners Support – Housing Now Fund – Council File 21-0863

Dear President Martinez,

On behalf of Watt Investment Partners, I am writing to express our strong support for the Housing Now Fund. The necessity for additional resources to transition people out of homelessness and into permanent housing has never been more apparent. We also know that in order to fully address the scale of the homelessness and affordable housing crisis, the public sector will need private sector partnership. We, as owners and developers of market rate and affordable housing, see the Housing Now Fund as an avenue to achieving this necessary collaboration.

Over the past 18 months, we have acquired 15 market-rate, multifamily properties, totaling 596 units in the City of Los Angeles. As existing tenants leave these properties through natural attrition, we offer vacant units to households that income qualify at 80% of AMI or below, including a significant number of voucher tenants. Many of these tenants are formerly homeless and we are proud that our partnerships with Brilliant Corners, PATH, and LA Family Housing (among others) have facilitated the leasing of 115 of our units to voucher-holders.

Our goal is to continue to increase the percentage of voucher tenants at our properties and expand our program to acquire additional assets in Los Angeles with the same objective. The Housing Now Fund would provide for resources that would significantly augment the number of formerly homeless persons that we could offer housing to.

We are grateful to Councilmember Ridley-Thomas' leadership on this item and urge the City Council to provide its support in advancing the motion. We are appreciative of your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JMcElyea'.

Jennifer McElyea
Senior Managing Partner
Watt Investment Partners

Cc: Nadine Watt, Chief Executive Officer – Watt Companies