



MIKE BONIN

City of Los Angeles
Councilmember, Eleventh District

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget & Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Amending the Los Angeles City Planning Budget to Address Social Justice and the Housing Crisis

Dear Chair Krekorian and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for your leadership on Los Angeles City Council's Budget and Finance Committee (Committee). I am writing to urge you to honor several requests from Los Angeles City Planning (LACP) to provide sufficient resources for the City to do the necessary work to address equity, social justice, climate vulnerability, and housing affordability.

The City of Los Angeles needs to ensure that the production of necessary housing units is done fairly and equitably. This unprecedented challenge to meet the City's total housing target of 456,643 housing units as determined by the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requires that we make the right investments to break the cycle of limited housing choice, disproportionate environmental burden, and housing segregation in our City.

I implore the Committee to review LACP's letter dated April 21, 2021 and consider additional resources for the following key recommendations:

1. Environmental Justice Policy and Climate Vulnerability Assessments

City Council adopted several key pieces of legislation that directed LACP to: update the General Plan to include an intentional Environmental Justice Chapter (Council File 15-0103-S4), ensure implementation of Environmental Justice work programs (Council File 15-0103-S2), create a Coastal Equity and Environmental Justice Policy (Council File 21-1071), and conduct Climate Vulnerability Assessments to inform climate smart development (Council Files 20-1213, 15-0103-S4).

I recommend that the Committee accommodate LACP's request and include in the FY 22-23 Budget position authority and nine-months funding in the amount of \$542,844 for seven positions to ensure that the City is planning for a fair and just future for Los Angeles.

2. Grant Position Authority for the Office of Racial Equity and Transformative Planning

In response to Executive Directive 27 in 2020, LACP made a serious commitment to ensuring that Racial Equity permeates all functions of the Department by establishing an Office of Racial Equity and Transformative Planning, currently headed by the Chief Equity Officer, Faisal Roble. Unfortunately, the important work of this unit does not have permanent funding or full-time staffing.

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I recommend that the Committee accommodate LACPs request and include in the FY 22-23 Budget position authority and nine-months funding in the amount of \$282,382 for three positions to ensure that we are responsive to the commitments the City made in the wake of the nationwide George Floyd Uprising.

3. Support Meaningful Outreach and Engagement

In legislation adopted by the City Council (Council File 15-0103-S4), we tasked LACP to conduct intentional and meaningful outreach and engagement, especially in marginalized, historically underserved, and disadvantaged communities. These communities deserve a seat at the table as we reimagine the planning paradigm in Los Angeles to address Environmental and Climate Justice issues and embark on an unprecedented effort to rezone our City to accommodate our housing need.

I recommend that the Committee accommodate LACP's request and include in the FY 22-23 Budget \$500,000 in contractual services funding to support engagement and fund community partners as part of a robust outreach effort to support the work of updating our City's General Plan.

4. Approve and Expand the "Low-Rise Design Lab" to Include Mid-Rise and Missing Middle Housing

The Mayor's proposed budget specifies a work-program "Low-Rise Design Lab" in the Unappropriated Balance (UB) for a new program to guide the development and design of duplex and quadruplex projects on single-family zoned lots, as now permitted under state law. However, recent State law also has facilitated mid-rise development along "transit-rich" corridors. Program 131 of the adopted Housing Element (2021-2029) specifies the "Livable Communities Initiative" as a way to better integrate planning for housing and transit investments in tandem on select corridors through mid-rise development.

I recommend that the program be expanded to include "Mid-Rise" projects as specified by the "Livable Communities Initiative" to explore innovative and thoughtful design and planning in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. I look forward to working with you to achieve a just, balanced, and forward-thinking budget for the City of Los Angeles.

Regards,



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