

Communication from Public

Name: Charles Porter

Date Submitted: 10/15/2024 11:22 AM

Council File No: 22-0617-S3

Comments for Public Posting: please see the attached public comment for your consideration.



UNITED COALITION EAST

October 15, 2024

Los Angeles City Council
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CF 22-0617 -Downtown LA Community Plan Update

Dear Councilmembers:

My name is Charles Porter and I work for United Coalition East Prevention Project, a program of Social Model Recovery Systems, located in the Skid Row neighborhood. We have participated in numerous hearings and meetings regarding the Downtown LA Community Plan and have consistently shared concerns and recommendations aimed to support public health and wellness and advance equity and racial justice. These efforts have occurred alongside our coalition membership, the Skid Row Now and 2040 Coalition, and in solidarity with the Central City United Coalition (CCU). Providing adequate housing for our poorest citizens is a priority and public health concern. Skid Row Now and 2040 has advocated for equitable and responsive land use. Protections in the IX1 zone attempt to address some of our Skid Row concerns, but this zone only extends to an area that is 1/3 of Skid Row, with the other 2/3 receiving a CX2 designation.

The protections for Skid Row including prohibitions on new alcohol uses should extend throughout the entire neighborhood (3rd Street to the north, Alameda to the east, 7th Street to the south, and Main Street to the west). We also support the recommendations submitted by CCU (composed of community groups from Skid Row, Little Tokyo, and Chinatown) two of which state that ***100% affordable housing development be included in the IX1 use district, and that the definition of “community facilities” should not be broadened.***

The dense concentration of alcohol uses in and around Skid Row is a public health threat and testament to the inequitable distribution of land use. In the three core Skid Row census tracts (2063.01, 2063.02, 2063.03) and five adjacent tracts containing portions of Skid Row (2260.02, 2062.01, 2073.06, 2073.07, 2073.08), the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) allows a total of 21 alcohol licenses (15 on-sale, 6 off-sale). Yet as of October 14, 2024, a staggering **121** active alcohol licenses exist (104 on-sale, 17 off-sale), far exceeding authorized limits. The vast majority of these outlets envelop Skid Row, a recovery community, and are not congruent with local needs. On-sale uses are as problematic as off-sale uses, and often drive gentrification. We ask that the Restaurant Beverage Program be prohibited within the boundaries of Skid Row. Community advocacy has served as a buffer but we need responsible land use policies to prevent overconcentration. The proliferation of wholesale smoke shops in Skid Row is another example of failed land use policy. Neighborhood empowerment and public health and must be prioritized. Our efforts, in collaboration with the Skid Row Now and 2040 Coalition, have focused on promoting diversity and equity while centering arts, culture, community representation, employment, and systems accountability (to curb disparities).

Additionally we ask that you clearly define affordable housing levels to remove moderate income units and prioritize deeply low income, extremely low income, very low income and

lower income residents. Also, that you define representative members of the oversight committee for the Community Benefit Trust Fund so 30% of membership includes residents or workers with lived experienced of being unhoused. That you ensure funds from the Community Benefit Trust Fund are used within a 1-mile radius of Downtown Los Angeles development, not a 1.5-mile radius, with a priority benefit to Skid Row. And lastly that you establish a Skid Row district council for self-representation by residents (housed and unhoused) and workers within the historical Skid Row boundaries.

Since 1999, I have been a part of the Skid Row community, witnessing firsthand how residents bravely confronted and curbed nuisance businesses including alcohol outlets. I have also witnessed resident-led initiatives for self-representation and agency to shape a Skid Row that confronts long-ignored neighborhood needs. We ask that you expand protections for the most vulnerable to cover the entire community of Skid Row, only then can the city demonstrate a truly equitable approach to addressing decades of systemic neglect, paving the way for a brighter future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles Porter', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Charles Porter
Project Coordinator
United Coalition East Prevention Project

Communication from Public

Name: Henriëtte Brouwers
Date Submitted: 10/15/2024 12:00 PM
Council File No: 22-0617-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Based on our Containment and Community policy paper as a framework and the City Planning Department's report (9/19/23), I advocate that City Council:
https://www.lapovertydept.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/skidrow-now-2040_green_paper_final_web_upload.pdf
Conduct Feasibility Studies for Affordable Housing in Adaptive Reuse Projects Every Two Years. · Retains the IX1 Zone, without modifications, as City Planning recommends: “given prevailing sensitivities around the displacement of the Skid Row population, City Planning recommends that the existing zoning standards established by the City Council when it adopted the Downtown Plan be preserved” (pp. 6-7). Only 100% Affordable Housing Development should be included in the IX1 Use District, and the Definition of “Community Facilities” Should Not Be Broadened. We agree with the Department of City Planning's (DCP) report recommendation that the existing zoning standards established by the City Council when it adopted the Downtown Community Plan should be preserved. The zoning should not be changed to accommodate Community Facilities as Council District 14 has requested. As DCP's report states, the IX1 use district was established to prioritize the provision of affordable housing. Providing Community Facilities in lieu of affordable housing would undermine the goals for the special use district and result in fewer needed housing units. · Clearly defines affordable housing levels to remove moderate income units and prioritize deeply low income, extremely low income, very low income and lower income residents. Earmarks In-Lieu Affordable Housing Funds for Downtown Projects. If an in-lieu fee option will remain in the Plan and funds are deposited in a Citywide Affordable Housing Trust Fund, as proposed by DCP in its report back, we ask that the City earmark in-lieu fees generated from DTLA developments for affordable housing projects located in the DTLA Plan Area. · Does not support the “arbitrary” for-profit enterprises that CD 14 requested as additional Community Facilities and does not permit them to garner bonus floor area within the IX1. It is a ridiculous revision of the civic intentions of Community Facilities (est. under Article 9) (pp. 8-9). · Define representative members of the oversight committee for the Community Benefit Trust Fund so 30% of membership includes residents or workers with lived experienced of being unhoused. · Ensure funds from the Community Benefit Trust Fund are used within a 1-mile radius of Downtown Los Angeles development, not a 1.5-mile radius, with a priority benefit to Skid Row. · Establish a Skid Row district council for self-representation by residents (housed and unhoused) and workers within the historical Skid Row boundaries. · Implement elements of DTLA 2040 that foster a healthy and sustainable Skid Row neighborhood. · Acknowledge and represent in the plan that the IX1 zone represents a fraction of Skid Row, and as future planning decisions are considered, IX1 should NOT be considered inclusive; the historical boundaries of Skid Row as a significant historical neighborhood spans Alameda to Main, and 3rd to 7th Streets.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/15/2024 12:34 PM

Council File No: 22-0617-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Only 100% Affordable Housing Development Should Be Included in the IX1 Use District, and the Definition of “Community Facilities” Should Not Be Broadened. Retain the IX1 Zone without modifications, as City Planning recommends: given prevailing sensitivities around the displacement of the Skid Row population, City Planning City Planning recommends that the existing zoning standards established by the City Council when it adopted the Downtown Plan be preserved. Clearly define affordable housing levels to remove moderate income units and prioritize deeply low income, extremely low income, very low income and lower income residents. Deny the for-profit enterprises that CD 14 requested as additional Community Facilities and do not permit them to garner bonus floor area within the IX1. It is an unacceptable and unjustified revision of the civic intentions of Community Facilities (est. under Article 9) . Define representative members of the oversight committee for the Community Benefit Trust Fund so that a minimum of 30% of oversight committee members are residents or workers with lived experienced of being unhoused. Ensure funds from the Community Benefit Trust Fund are used within a 1-mile radius of Downtown Los Angeles development, not a 1.5-mile radius, with a priority benefit to Skid Row. Establish a Skid Row district council for self-representation by residents (housed and unhoused) and workers within the historical Skid Row boundaries. Implement elements of DTLA 2040 that foster a healthy and sustainable Skid Row neighborhood. Acknowledge and represent in the plan that the IX1 zone covers only part of the geography of the Skid Row neighborhood. Future planning decisions should acknowledge this fact and recognize the historical boundaries of Skid Row as: Alameda to Main, and 3rd to 7th Streets.