

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 22-0617-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Skid Row Now and 2040 Coalition Response to City of Los Angeles' Department of City Planning Council File Number: 22-0617-S3: Downtown Los Angeles Community Plan / IX1 Use District Modifications / Community Facilities / Skid Row Neighborhood dated September 19, 2023 Dear City Councilmembers: I am a Professor of urban and California history, have been involved in advocating for the IX1 Zone in the Downtown Community Plan. I am a member of the Skid Row Now and 2040 Coalition (formed 2017) and authored a policy paper, Containment and Community as a means to address the long history of the Skid Row neighborhood as it pertains to the Community Plan and the preservation of low income housing and services within the historical boundaries of Skid Row. I am chagrined that after a year of waiting for this committee meeting, it was announced with so little advance warning. I hope you will accept these comments, since the timing was too short to make arrangement to attend or even to submit a letter within just a few days notice. Over the last five years I have worked alongside the Skid Row Now & 2040 Commission with the Department of City Planning's DTLA 2040 team in productive ways on the Downtown Community Plan. We conducted extensive outreach throughout our Skid Row neighborhood - residents, workers, and other stakeholders. I am grateful for the department's work with us to date along with City Council and the Mayor to achieve plan adoption, including the recent report Council File Number: 22-0617-S3: Downtown Los Angeles Community Plan / IX1 Use District Modifications / Community Facilities / Skid Row Neighborhood. Based on our Containment and Community policy paper as a framework and the City Planning Department's report (9/19/23), I advocate for City Council to: • Retain the IX1 Zone with current boundaries and at 80% affordable housing, 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). Moreover, 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. ? Do not support the "arbitrary" 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 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. I also urge PLUM and the City Council to: ? 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 the historical boundaries of the Skid Row neighborhood, which includes but is not exclusive to the IX1 zone as indicated in the Community Plan. Rather, Skid Row as a significant historical neighborhood, has spanned Alameda to Main, 3rd to 7th Streets. The IX1 zone represents a fraction of Skid Row, and as future planning decisions are considered, IX1 should NOT be addressed as or spatially define Skid Row. Thank you for your consideration. Catherine Gudis Professor History Department University of California, Riverside Scholar in Residence, LA Poverty Department's Skid Row History Museum and Archive Member, Skid Row Now & 2040 Coalition