

Communication from Public

Name: Zeke Sandoval

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Comments for Public Posting: While we sympathize with the motivation behind this motion, another criteria for affordable housing placement only adds to the layer of red tape binding affordable housing developers and service providers. Homes end homelessness, and we're proud that our affordable housing development arm PATH Ventures frequently partners with the City to build more affordable homes. As this committee knows well, affordable developers rely on multiple funding sources to finance any development. Each loan or grant frequently comes with its own strings: income thresholds, time spent unsheltered, physical or behavioral disabilities, veteran status, and so on. It's reasonable to expect affordable housing to be targeted to those most in need, but each criteria slows down the leasing-up process. Homes go unfilled, nonprofits risk a tax penalty, and plenty of our neighbors languish on waitlists while we verify they check every required box. This proposed policy is likely to add yet another box to check. For LA residents who would qualify, they're likely to wait even longer in shelters or encampments while we sort through yet another bureaucratic hurdle of verifying City residency. For people experiencing homelessness just outside City borders, they'd bear the cost of any intraregional chaos this policy may create. Ensuring LA residents get the maximum value of LA's investments is a reasonable goal. We encourage the Council to consider incentives or streamlined processes to achieve this goal, instead of mandates that may backfire on unhoused individuals caught in the crossfire.