

Communication from Public

Name: Caroline Nick

Date Submitted: 10/06/2025 10:47 PM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon, Councilmembers. My name is Caroline Nick, and I'm a homeowner from Pacific Palisades whose home was destroyed in the Palisades Fire. I'm here today to ask—please—vote yes to waive the rebuilding permit fees for families like mine. The day of the fire, we lost everything—our homes, church, my children's school, where I was PTA president, our lifetime of memories, the sense of safety we built our lives around. We lost our cars, as we were forced to leave our them on Sunset Blvd bc the fires were coming down to the street. Both my kids said they might throw up as we were running down Sunset. A stranger picked us up on the PCH as we walked as I carried our 14 year dog. You can not imagine the drama we experienced. Since then, we've done everything right. We've cleared our lots, we've worked with architects, we've stayed engaged with the city process, but every step forward comes with another cost, another delay, another hurdle. Permit fees may seem like a big piece to recoup the city's budget, but that is not our responsibility. That is not our deficit. We did not misuse funds. We did not choose this. To families like ours, the fees represent a huge barrier. We didn't choose to have our homes burn down with no water in site, not a firefighter in site. I paid \$39k for property taxes and got absolutely nothing, nothing in return. After paying for demolition, temporary housing, and uncovered rebuilding expenses, many of us are stretched to our limits. Other California cities—like Malibu, Santa Rosa, and Paradise—waived these fees to help their residents rebuild after fire disasters. Los Angeles should do the same. This is not just about money—it's about compassion, partnership, and helping Angelenos come home. Please, stand with us. Help us rebuild our lives without adding one more financial weight to carry. You will get the property taxes you are pinning for if you help us return, I can assure you. Thank you for your time and for your service to our city. Caroline Nick -Elder of Children and Family Ministries at Palisades Presbyterian Church -Former Friends of Marquez President -Community Outreach Chair, Palisades Library

Communication from Public

Name: Vienna Nowell

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 01:46 PM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Budget and Finance Committee Members, Myself, my husband and our two boys lived in the Palisades until January 7th. We had spent three years living in a renovation to get us our dream home. We love our 1960's post and beam and wanted to preserve and retain its' character. We paid our last sizable invoice in December of 2024. Our home burned down less than a month later. We want to come back. We want to rebuild. We were underinsured, as so, so many Palisadians were. We had insurance for our pre-renovation home but had not put our coverage up as we had not closed out our permits yet (we had one light fixture to put up left). We are trying to figure out how to afford the rebuild, between struggling with insurance and all the fees for engineering, architects, soil testing, it is really hard. Waiving of permits fees for all Palisades fire rebuilds is so important to help us over this hurdle. We are starting from scratch here. We are not building back our beautiful ranch style home with sweeping eaves. We are building back more resiliently and not within 110% of the original dimensions. We will have a smaller footprint but higher overall height. Please consider all Palisadians. We did not ask or want to rebuild our home. We know now that we can build in a more fire safe way so we will do to prevent this ever happening again. Thank you for your time and your consideration. Vienna Nowell

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 09:20 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Palisadians should not have to pay for permits! And people who switched lots should not have to pay for permits! You let our city burn. You have hurt us enough.

Communication from Public

Name: Louise

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 09:40 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: It is egregious to exclude those who are keeping the same square footage but distributing over two floors, instead of one, in order to increase setbacks to adhere to current code and improve fire safety for all - you are literally encouraging people to build to old less safe standards. Indeed, it is egregious to exclude ANYONE who was forced to rebuild in this natural disaster. You will be making billions in sales tax from us already. LA COUNTY DID THE RIGHT THING - DO THE RIGHT THING AND INCLUDE ALL FIRE REBUILDS.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 09:43 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: It is critical that this fee waiver apply to all rebuild projects regardless of original owner. This is important to families like mine (fire victims who are choosing to build elsewhere in the Palisades burn zone) as well as any Palisades fire victim who decides to sell their home. Lot prices and rebuild costs are inversely proportional. Every lot buyer will be factoring this fee waiver into their purchase price, resulting in higher land values for fire victims.

Communication from Public

Name: Pete D

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 09:50 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: My home burned down in the Palisades fire. I am low-income and under-insured. I am rebuilding a basic 'starter home' and I am reducing my square footage. I am calling for the various city fees to be waived -- or at the very least, waived for people who are doing like-for-like rebuilds within 10%. I think it's important for the committee to understand some of the financial burdens being imposed on people trying to rebuild. The Department of Building & Safety has been imposing excessive and expensive rules, regulations, and codes. Despite the fact that I'm planning a like-for-like rebuild on a flat lot, the city demanded that I conduct what was a \$15,000 soils report. Next, the city demanded that I conduct two 'slope stability analysis' reports regarding my back hillside. This cost nearly another \$4,000. It doesn't end there. The city is requiring that I support my foundation with expensive caissons instead of with simple footings (as my house was originally built). The cost of building my garage alone is going to be close to \$100,000. To offset costs, I had hoped to skip building the garage. Unfortunately, by code, my home MUST have a garage or carport which, in my case, must be supported by two extra caissons that will have to descend down about 8 feet or so. In order to keep my costs down, I plan on doing much of my own finishing work (painting, flooring, moulding, doors, etc). I have already done my own exterior plumbing work, soil remediation, masonry work, and brush clearance. Finally, I think it's also important for the committee to consider that the city is going to be generating a LOT of tax revenue from all of this rebuilding. How hard is it to waive permit fees when all of this other tax revenue is going to be generated? Sincerely, Pete D

Communication from Public

Name: Adam Bloch

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 10:30 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Thousands of families tragically lost their homes and large parts of their lives on January 7th in the Palisades Fire. These families are simply trying to get back to the lives they had on January 6th. Unfortunately, doing so will require significant rebuilding costs to be incurred, significantly more than most were insured for. The City of Los Angeles should be doing its part to help encourage the rebuild of the Palisades as quickly as possible. Not just because it is the right thing to do following a natural disaster but also because it makes good economic sense for the city. With over 5,000 homes destroyed and assuming 3,000 square feet on average for rebuilds and skyrocketing rebuild costs of \$600-800 per square foot, total construction costs will far exceed \$10 billion. Sales tax collected by the state and county, part of which is distributed to the city, will thus exceed \$1 billion on reconstruction alone. This is in addition to higher property values once houses are built, resulting in more property taxes being assessed. And, of course, the additional sales tax that will come along with people returning to their community and resuming the normal pace of spending, which has helped to support the city for years. The sooner the Palisades rebuilds, the sooner the city will have access to these tax revenues. The easier the city can make rebuilding, the sooner that rebuilding will occur. The best way the city can make the rebuilding process easier is waiving these fees for people rebuilding on the same lots, for those transferring to new lots to be closer to family and friends, and even for new entrants to the community. Let's all row in the same direction to get our town rebuilt and the city its new sources of revenue.

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer McGaughey

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 10:39 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: City Council Members, As survivors of the wildfire in Pacific Palisades on January 7th, our family is displaced, fearful, and uncertain of our ability to return to our beloved home, and neighborhood of nearly 25 years. The estimated costs to rebuild far exceed the funds provided by insurance and despite common misconceptions, most Palisades' residents do not have a wealth of assets to draw from to cover these excessive costs. Building Permit fees should be waived, not delayed. This small concession on the part of The City of Los Angeles could make the difference between survivors' ability to rebuild, versus having to permanently leave our cherished neighborhood. The City of Los Angeles abandoned our community, and waiving permit fees - as has been the case in other fire affected communities - would be a step towards supporting the rebuilding of our homes and neighborhoods and hopefully help to preserve some of the characteristics that made our little town so special. Thank you for your attention, and common sense decision to Waive Permit Fees.
Jennifer McGaughey

Communication from Public

Name: Yvonne Szafran
Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 10:51 AM
Council File No: 25-0006-S57
Comments for Public Posting: Please waive the permit fees for fire victims. We were all underinsured and it will be a financial struggle to rebuild. The city was clearly partially responsible for the devastation. It should be noted that in past disasters these fees were waived.

Communication from Public

Name: Ashley Ristau

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 11:12 AM

Council File No: 25-0006-S57

Comments for Public Posting: Please waive the permit fees for rebuilding. We are trying to rebuild a community that has been devastated and decimated. Imposing arduous fees on our community is not in the spirit of supporting our rebuilding efforts. I urge you to waive the permit fees for all residents rebuilding in Pacific Palisades. Let us rebuild this incredible community so we can all go back home.