

BB

AD HOC LA Recovery

MOTION

Following the devastation and loss of the Palisades Fire, many longtime residents, including the elderly and those of limited resources, are faced with the daunting task and uncertainty of rebuilding their homes. The City should do everything within its power to alleviate the financial burden for these residents in order to facilitate their return and stabilize the Pacific Palisades community.

In a report dated April 4, 2018 relative to the expediting of building permits and granting of fee waivers associated with the reconstruction of homes and other buildings damaged in the La Tuna Canyon and Creek Wildfires in 2017, the City Administrative Officer (CAO) reported (Council File No. 18-0036) that the City Attorney advised that certain fees collected by the Department of Building and Safety should not be waived in order to minimize legal risks to the City and prevent other users from subsidizing these waived fees. Fee waivers, however, following *federally declared natural disasters*, are not unprecedented.

Following the Northridge Earthquake in 1994, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 169813, which waived all plan check and permit fees for property owners who wished to repair earthquake damage or to demolish and/or rebuild a destroyed structure. In addition, Art Fees Fees were also waived with Council's adoption of Ordinance No. 169350 on February 8, 1994, for repairs and new construction that was substantially similar to the destroyed building. According to the City's report produced in the aftermath of the earthquake: *In the Wake of the Quake: A Prepared City Responds (1995)*, - many of these fee waivers were reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

While California voters' approval of Proposition 218 (*Right to Vote on Taxes Act*) in 1996 may have impacted this framework, the City should leave no stone unturned in its efforts to assist its residents who may be underinsured or lack the resources to finance a rebuild. To stabilize the Pacific Palisades community, the City should further explore the waiver of building fees for reimbursement by FEMA and Cal OES, as was negotiated by the City following the Northridge Earthquake.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the Department of Building and Safety, the Planning Department, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Cultural Affairs, and in consultation with the City Attorney, and other departments as needed, to assess the feasibility of waiving plancheck, permit fees and arts fees for repairs and rebuilds of structures that were destroyed in the Palisades Fire, as occurred in 1994 after the Northridge Earthquake. If infeasible, the report should explore alternative solutions, including payment deferrals.

PRESENTED BY: Traci Park
TRACI PARK
Councilwoman, 11th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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