

Communication from Public

Name: Matthew Murphy

Date Submitted: 03/25/2025 07:33 AM

Council File No: 25-0247

Comments for Public Posting: Please support single staircase reform! We need to build more efficiently, especially in the wake of defeating wild fires. Jurisdictions across the world have instituted this policy without sacrificing safety. Let's make it easier to build affordable housing in Los Angeles!

Communication from Public

Name: Stephen Kiazzyk
Date Submitted: 03/25/2025 08:33 AM
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Comments for Public Posting: I am in support of this change. My understanding is that removing the double-stairway requirement allows a greater variety of building types to pencil out (and, in particular, more small-scale multi-family projects), in a wider variety of contexts (including small and irregular lots). I believe a common problem with projects aimed to increase urban density in North American cities is that they tend to be very aggressive in their scope, and build out quite large buildings out of step with the rest of the built environment. Ideally, this could provide a greater incentive towards gentle density throughout the city, and hopefully avoid the current gridlock around large lots with large projects that sit vacant for years waiting on permitting and financing. These buildings also tend to require a lower footprint overall (due to not needing the extra interior hallway connecting two stairwells), which potentially reclaims more open-air urban space for trees and public walkway. The primary downside seems to be concerns around fire safety, which is a sensitive issue now more than ever. However, the empirical evidence from other jurisdictions indicates that in practice (especially in the context of other modern fire mitigation techniques) the loss in safety is negligible. It would also seem prudent (and reasonably practical) to pair this with exterior emergency exit stairs. Furthermore, higher density areas tend to give better fire emergency response since resources can be better concentrated over a smaller geographic area. I hope you will consider this change to policy, as I believe it will be a very strong net-good for our city.