MOTION

The City of Los Angeles faces a severe housing shortage, and also must attract and retain businesses. To meet these needs, it must be able to provide prompt, thorough and accurate reviews of applications for land use approvals and building permits. Although the City has made substantial progress in making more development by-right and eliminating the need for discretionary approvals, each project still must be reviewed to ensure that it complies with zoning and building codes. That is a time-consuming and highly-technical process, often requiring multiple rounds of reviews and resubmittals.

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools may offer the capacity to streamline that process by automating routine plan reviews to detect zoning or code compliance issues. If AI tools are made available to applicants, they can submit better applications. If used by City employees, AI tools could relieve City employees from mundane time-consuming tasks and allow them to apply their knowledge and expertise to resolving issues that require their professional judgment. AI would not replace valued City employees, but could allow them to work more efficiently.

In April 2025, Mayor Bass issued Executive Directive 10, Artificial Intelligence Pilot Program, which instructed the Department of Building and Safety (DBS) to report within 30 days with recommendations on the feasibility of the use of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence to support DBS review of projects rebuilding from the January 2025 Wildfires. While rebuilding of the Palisades is of critical importance, the use of AI should not be limited to projects in a specific geographic area, and all departments that review projects should take advantage of AI to enhance their efficiency.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Department of Building and Safety (DBS) to report within 30 days regarding the recommendations included in its response to Executive Directive 10, and to establish a pilot program for use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for pre-screening of permit applications by applicants to enable corrections prior to formal submittal, and for initial screening of applications by DBS;

I FURTHER MOVE the the City Council INSTRUCT the Department of City Planning (Planning) to report within 30 days with recommendations for the use of AI tools to assist in reviewing entitlement applications for zoning compliance and other code requirements;

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT DBS, in coordination with other departments that review applications for building permits, including the Bureau of Engineering, the Bureau of Sanitation, the Department of Transportation, and the Fire Department, to report within 30 days with recommendations regarding opportunities for the use of AI tools to improve efficiencies and enhance the review and coordination of applications.

PRESENTED BY: _____
BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, Third District

SECONDED BY: _____

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