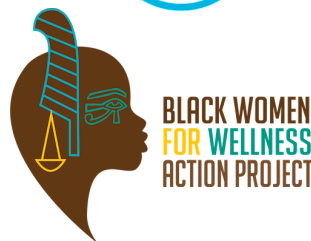


Communication from Public

Name: Public health, climate, EJ and housing advocates
Date Submitted: 02/16/2026 12:44 PM
Council File No: 25-1036
Comments for Public Posting: The undersigned organizations are writing to voice our strong support for the Maximum Indoor Temperature motion.



February 16, 2026

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Support for the Maximum Indoor Temperature Motion, Council File No. 25-1036

We are a coalition of tenant, labor, environmental justice and climate advocates writing to express strong support for the Maximum Indoor Temperature motion. We urge you to support this motion to prevent heat-related illness and death and transform our housing stock to be resilient in the face of a changing climate.

Extreme heat kills more people annually in the United States than any other natural disaster, with most fatalities occurring indoors due to the absence of effective cooling. On an average extreme heat day in Los Angeles County, hospitals see over 1,500 excess emergency room visits. Our most vulnerable neighbors—seniors, children, people with

existing health conditions and residents of low-income, environmentally burdened communities—are particularly at risk. And as our planet warms, heat waves are only becoming more frequent, prolonged and fatal.

The findings in Strategic Actions for a Just Economy's (SAJE) recent report [A Renters' Right to Cooling](#) make clear that Los Angeles' tenants cannot wait any longer for protection from extreme heat conditions. During focus groups conducted for the report, tenants described experiencing serious physical and mental health impacts due to heat, including asthma attacks, headaches, dizziness, heat rashes, and insomnia. Many are forced to utilize ineffective or costly cooling solutions—such as wearing wet clothes, running fans, or leaving home entirely—because their landlords refuse to install air conditioning or actively prohibit them from installing it.

Extreme heat constitutes a public health crisis. The City of Los Angeles must treat it as such, rather than waiting for an event like the 1995 Chicago heat wave—which claimed the lives of 739 people largely due to a lack of access to indoor cooling—to take action. We commend the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for paving the way by adopting their Safe Indoor Temperature ordinance, and urge the City of Los Angeles to help standardize these important protections across the region.

Sincerely,

Lauren Ahkiam
Climate Campaign Director
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy

Catherine Baltazar
Associate Director of Advocacy and Organizing
Climate Resolve

Agustin Cabrera
Deputy Director
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)

Isabel Friedman
Senior Advocacy Associate, Environmental Health
Natural Resources Defense Council

Eva Garcia
Tenant Organizer
Colectivo Poder Comunitario
Fideicomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre

Shane Henson
Public Policy Advocate
Inner City Law Center

Grace Hut
Assistant Director of Policy and Advocacy
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Fernando Ochoa
Political Director
Sheet Metal Workers (SMART) Local 105

Veronica Padilla
Executive Director
Pacoima Beautiful

Karen Romero Estrada
Energy Justice Associate
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles

Tianna Shaw-Wakeman
Environmental Justice Director
Black Women for Wellness Action Project

Megan Wilhelm
Equal Justice Works Fellow
Public Advocates Inc.