

Communication from Public

Name:

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Welcome to UNION TOWN

October 30, 2025

Dear Councilmembers,

We write in opposition to the expenditure of millions of precious city dollars on high-priced law firms.

We are all too aware of the dire fiscal straights facing our City. Earlier this year, you worked hard to close a \$1 billion budget gap, narrowly avoiding thousands of layoffs. These problems have not gone away. Indeed, Trump budget cuts and the need to rebuild after the devastating fires makes this threat all too real.

We are therefore very concerned, as we know many of you are, about the city's expenditures on expensive, outside legal counsel. In the few short months since you adopted a budget, the City Attorney has requested nearly 75% more funds for outside counsel, including a recent request of nearly \$12 million dollars.

We are particularly concerned by the request for an additional \$850,000 to fight the Venice Dell Community, which is on top of \$620,000 that has already been spent on legal efforts to oppose this affordable housing project, on which the City already spent millions to develop.

Worse still, these funds are not being used merely to defend against lawsuits, but for proactive litigation against non-profit developers. This suit seeks damages against the non-profits trying to build Venice Dell, claiming they aren't doing enough to build the housing the city is trying to block. In fact, the City is facing \$10 million in damages for its efforts to block this project.

Not only is the City spending egregiously, but killing the Venice Dell Community will have serious consequences for the City. The State has already indicated it may initiate reconsideration of the City's Prohousing Designation status because of the City's efforts to block Venice Dell. Penalties could include a loss of state funding for affordable housing, monthly fines to the City, a loss of local control over building and zoning decisions, court-ordered compliance, and much more.

The Venice Dell project is a model project for our City: it provides desperately needed affordable housing, and because the developers have signed a Project Labor Agreement, it will provide good jobs for the LA residents who build it.

We urge you to reject the entire request from the City Attorney. Your leadership is vital to ensure that Los Angeles remains a city for all — one that upholds its promises, invests in the needs of its residents and uses taxpayer dollars responsibly.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Wheeler

President

Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

President | **YVONNE WHEELER** Chair | **THOM DAVIS**

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