

## **Communication from Public**

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/07/2025 04:53 PM

**Council File No:** 25-1225

**Comments for Public Posting:** please post



November 7, 2025

Dear Councilmembers,

Many of our organizations and partners have struggled with numerous devastating blows to our communities and industries over the course of this year. This has included devastating fires, Federal and State funding cuts, City and County budget constraints, and other critical blows to Angelenos' social safety nets.

Given this reality, it is extremely disappointing that the City Attorney has now requested over \$12 million dollars for additional outside counsel resources (report no. R25-0523 by the Office of the City Attorney, dated October 17, 2025).

This request includes an additional \$850,000 to fight the Venice Dell Community, which is in addition to the \$620,000 already spent to fight the Venice Dell Community. This exorbitant use of funds further exacerbates both the City's dire budget and housing crises. Worse still, the City Attorney filed suit against the non-profit developers, accusing them of failing to build the very project the City has been blocking. This is no longer just about killing Venice Dell Community, but upending two long standing and successful affordable housing developers who have provided high quality housing and services in LA for decades. The City is facing damages over \$10 million to avoid building a desperately needed and long-promised housing development it has already agreed to build. Legal responses from the City have all failed to date, yet the misplaced funding requests continue.

Not only is the City spending egregiously, but killing the Venice Dell Community will have serious legal consequences for the City. As noted in the letter of inquiry from the State's Housing Accountability Unit (enclosed), should the City decide to further delay and deny the Venice Dell Community, it may be found to be acting in opposition to the City's approved Housing Element, which would initiate reconsideration of the City's Pro-housing Designation status. 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.

We urge you to reject this unconscionable request from the City Attorney and protect Los Angeles' integrity, fiscal health, and commitment to inclusive housing. Your leadership is vital to ensure that Los Angeles remains a city for all — one that upholds its promises, invests in affordable housing, and uses taxpayer dollars responsibly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Howden", with a long, sweeping underline.

David Howden  
Director – LA Program

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**Beverly Vermont Community Land Trust – El Sereno Community Land Trust  
Fideicomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre – LA Chinatown Community Land Trust  
Liberty Community Land Trust – Long Beach Community Land Trust – T.R.U.S.T. South LA**

Dear Councilmembers,

The Los Angeles Community Land Trust Coalition (LA CLT Coalition) is a network of community-based nonprofit housing organizations that collectively steward 29 permanently affordable buildings across Los Angeles. Our mission is to advance housing justice and community ownership through policies and investments that ensure land and housing remain community assets, not commodities. Together, our members work in partnership with residents, the City, and public agencies to create and preserve affordable homes, prevent displacement, and promote equitable development.

This year, many of our organizations and partners have faced numerous crises — from devastating wildfires to federal funding cuts and an oversubscribed City budget — all of which have weakened the social safety net for Angelenos. In this context, it is deeply troubling that the City Attorney has requested over \$12 million in additional outside counsel resources (Report No. R25-0523, dated October 17, 2025).

This request includes an additional \$850,000 to fight the Venice Dell Community project — on top of the \$620,000 already spent opposing it. Such exorbitant use of taxpayer funds further worsens both the City’s budget deficit and its affordable housing crisis. Even more concerning, the City Attorney’s office has filed suit against the nonprofit developers, accusing them of failing to build the very project the City has obstructed. This is no longer simply an attempt to block Venice Dell; it is an attack on two long-standing and respected affordable housing developers who have delivered high-quality homes and community services to Los Angeles residents for decades. The City now faces potential damages exceeding \$10 million in an effort to avoid building a desperately needed and long-promised housing development it already approved. Despite repeated legal setbacks, the City Attorney continues to request more funding for these failed efforts.

Beyond the fiscal irresponsibility, the consequences of killing the Venice Dell Community would be severe. As noted in the State’s Housing Accountability Unit’s letter of inquiry, continued delay or denial of the Venice Dell project could put the City in violation of its certified Housing Element, jeopardizing Los Angeles’ Prohousing Designation status. The penalties for

noncompliance could include loss of state affordable housing funds, monthly financial penalties, loss of local control over building and zoning, and potential court-ordered enforcement actions.

We strongly urge you to reject this unjustifiable funding request from the City Attorney. Protect Los Angeles' integrity, fiscal health, and commitment to inclusive housing. Your leadership is essential to ensure Los Angeles remains a city for all—one that honors its commitments, invests in affordable housing, and uses public resources responsibly.

Sincerely,

*The Los Angeles Community Land Trust Coalition*