

## **Communication from Public**

**Name:**

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**Council File No:** 25-1225

**Comments for Public Posting:** please post



December 4, 2025

Dear Councilmembers,

It is no secret how challenging it has been for the city to find money and ensure vital services for our communities, in the face of devastating fires, Federal funding cuts, and other pressures on our city budget.

It is therefore astounding that the City Attorney has 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). Among the requests filed: 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 request exacerbates the City's budget woes, while doing nothing to help our housing crisis.

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, but upending two long standing and successful affordable housing developers who have provided high quality housing and services in LA for decades.

At the moment, the City already faces damages over \$10 million to avoid building the Venice Dell Community. Legal responses from the City have all failed to date, yet the funding requests continue.

All of these costs are in addition to serious State-level consequences for the City. The City has received a [letter of inquiry](#) from the State's Housing Accountability Unit. In it, the State notifies the City that its continued delay and denial of the Venice Dell Community may be found to be acting in opposition to the City's approved Housing Element. This finding would initiate reconsideration of the City's Prohousing 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 the \$12 million request from the City Attorney and protect Los Angeles' integrity, fiscal health, and commitment to inclusive housing. Your leadership can help our city protect its investments in affordable housing and continue to use taxpayer dollars responsibly.

Sincerely,

Godfrey Plata



Deputy Director, LA Forward Institute