

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 26-0386

Comments for Public Posting: Members of the City Council: I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy to express concern for the proposed ordinance that will give the Los Angeles Fire Department broad discretion to proactively demolish "high-risk" abandoned properties. While the Conservancy acknowledges the risk that abandoned properties pose to their adjacent communities, this program could prove detrimental to Los Angeles' historic resources if not refined. We request that the City Council and City Attorney include a robust review process in order to mitigate the loss of historic fabric. We recommend the following safeguards be studied for both Surveyed Historic Resources and Designated Historic Resources: 1. Robust noticing requirements 2. Opportunity for input by the Cultural Heritage Commission, including a public hearing if requested by the Commission 3. Office of Historic Resources review before LAFD action 4. Escalating corrective actions that provide viable offramps to preserve historic structures or historic fabric 5. Proper environmental review in accordance with current CEQA requirements The Conservancy looks forward to reviewing and commenting on the proposed ordinance upon release, and hope clear safeguards for historic places can be built in.