

TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED

#53

~~AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR LA
RECOVERY~~

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES FINDING
AND DECLARING THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UPLIFTERS FOUNDATION
LESSEN THE BURDENS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
BY PERFORMING POST-WILDFIRE RECONSTRUCTION AND REBUILDING
ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, the Pacific Palisades wildfire of January 2025 (“Palisades Fire”) destroyed approximately 5,000 homes, displacing thousands of residents and families from their communities, constituting one of the most devastating natural disasters in the history of the City of Los Angeles (the ‘City’); and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to restoring affected neighborhoods, facilitating the return of displaced residents, and ensuring the rapid and resilient reconstruction of housing and infrastructure within the Pacific Palisades community; and

WHEREAS, the City has assumed the governmental burden of coordinating and facilitating infrastructure restoration, housing recovery, and community stabilization in the aftermath of the Palisades Fire through a series of formal executive orders and directives; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2025 (with revisions on March 18, 2025 and July 23, 2025), the Mayor issued Executive Order No. 1 – Expedited Community Rebuilding and Recovery, which declared a local emergency, directed all City departments to facilitate rebuilding, established an interdepartmental task force for debris removal and coordinated rebuilding, prioritized plan check, permitting, and inspections for fire-damaged properties, and authorized streamlined approvals for like-for-like reconstruction, stating that “[t]his unprecedented natural disaster warrants an unprecedented response that will expedite the rebuilding of homes, businesses and communities”; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2025, the Mayor issued Executive Order No. 3 – Infrastructure and Public Safety Restoration, which provided business tax and gross receipts tax relief for wildfire-impacted areas, authorized the Office of Finance to extend deadlines and waive penalties, directed the City Administrative Officer and the Department of Economic and Workforce Development to coordinate economic recovery efforts, and recognized the extraordinary financial hardship resulting from wildfire damage; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California issued Executive Order N-4-25, which streamlined review under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and the California Coastal Act for replacement homes in coastal zones, coordinated with the California Coastal Commission for emergency approvals, and reduced City environmental review obligations for same-use rebuilds in the Pacific Palisades and surrounding areas; and


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WHEREAS, on March 21, 2025, the Mayor issued Executive Order No. 5 – Resilient Rebuilding, which directed the evaluation and implementation of resilient rebuilding standards, required reviews of wildfire risk, slope stability, stormwater retention, and fire-resistant construction materials and methods, established a resilience advisory framework, and emphasized climate adaptation principles in the rebuilding of fire-damaged areas; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2025, the Mayor issued Executive Order No. 6 – Self-Certification Pilot Program, which created a pilot self-certification process for licensed architects, reduced City plan-check review time, and streamlined the permitting process administered by the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (“LADBS”) and the Department of City Planning; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2025, the Mayor issued Executive Order No. 7 – Suspension of Plan Check and Permit Fees, which removed financial barriers for wildfire-affected homeowners by suspending the collection of plan check and permit fees, acknowledging that such fee waivers reduce municipal revenues but are necessary to accelerate recovery; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2025, the Mayor issued Executive Order No. 8 – Streamlining and Pre-Approved Standard Plans, which accelerated the rebuilding timeline, expanded eligibility for streamlined rebuilding beyond the 110% footprint rule, and directed LADBS to adopt a library of pre-approved single-family home designs to expedite permitting and construction; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2025, the Mayor issued Executive Directive No. 13 establishing the Pre-Approved Standard Plan Pilot Program, which created a City-maintained digital catalog of pre-approved residential designs meeting applicable zoning, fire, and structural codes, enabled property owners to select and adapt pre-approved plans for their lots, directed inter-departmental coordination to maintain the plan library, and prioritized application of the program in the Pacific Palisades community; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted Zoning and Planning Relief Measures for the Brentwood–Pacific Palisades Community Plan Area, which permit rebuilding consistent with existing single-family zoning, exempt replacement homes from most Specific Plan review and CEQA clearance requirements, and redirect City planning resources to fire-rebuild verification; and

WHEREAS, the Uplifters Foundation is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation that has proposed to rebuild approximately sixty (60) single-family homes in the Pacific Palisades community for the benefit of displaced residents; and

WHEREAS, the Uplifters Foundation proposes to offer long-term lease arrangements with an option to purchase at a meaningful discount to market value, providing displaced residents and returning families with a lease-to-own pathway to homeownership; and

WHEREAS, the activities of the Uplifters Foundation directly advance the governmental objectives set forth in the Mayor's Executive Orders and Directives by performing reconstruction that the City has designated as a governmental priority, financing, constructing, and managing rebuilding without reliance on City funds, and accelerating the repopulation of the Pacific Palisades consistent with the City's stated recovery goals; and

WHEREAS, the Uplifters Foundation's activities further lessen the burdens of the City government by providing attainable replacement housing that reinforces the City's repatriation and resilience strategy, restoring the local property tax base through reconstruction, establishing visible rebuilding momentum that encourages other property owners to rebuild, reducing permitting and administrative workload on City departments, operating within the streamlined review frameworks established by the City's executive orders and directives, and utilizing compliant, self-certified plans consistent with the City's pilot programs; and

WHEREAS, the Uplifters Foundation's proposed activities serve the public purpose of post-disaster reconstruction without the expenditure of City funds, accelerate the repopulation of fire-damaged neighborhoods, restore the local tax base, provide attainable housing opportunities for displaced residents, and establish rebuilding momentum within the Pacific Palisades community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES that the Council hereby finds and declares that the activities of the Uplifters Foundation, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, lessen the burdens of the government of the City by performing, at private expense, activities that the City has officially undertaken as a municipal responsibility through formal Executive Orders and Directives related to post-Palisades Fire reconstruction and recovery in the Pacific Palisades community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PRESENTED BY: Traci Park
TRACI PARK
Councilwoman, 11th District

SECONDED BY: Amadeo Acuña

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