



**DOWNTOWN
LONG BEACH
ALLIANCE**

November 17, 2020

Honorable Mayor Garcia and Members of the Long Beach City Council
Civic Center Plaza
411 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: H-50 Midtown (SP-1) and Downtown (PD-30) Micro-Unit Ordinance

Dear Mayor and Members of Long Beach City Council,

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Downtown Long Beach (DLBA) Board of Directors and enter into the public record for the City Council meeting scheduled for November 17th, 2020, support for the consideration of a micro-unit housing pilot program in the Midtown and Downtown areas of the city.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exasperated a multitude of issues already facing California and the City of Long Beach, including health equity, digital access, and affordable housing. Thousands of Long Beach residents have experienced reduced income and increased medical costs associated with the current health crisis. More than ever before, it is necessary to provide reasonable, expanded housing options to those struggling to pay housing-related costs.

While the micro-unit program is just one of 29 housing policy recommendations adopted citywide, the program shows promising results in the dense urban environments of Downtown and Midtown Long Beach. In these areas, many larger parcels have already been entitled or undergone development, leaving many small, irregular plots of land underdeveloped. The versatility in size and design of micro units allows for meaningful housing development on these smaller sites, overcoming many of the design challenges that previously prevented traditional construction.

Beyond design versatility, affordability is by far the most promising aspect of a micro-unit pilot program. Smaller units combined with sustainable construction practices create more affordable housing stock for more residents, especially for those who live independently or on a fixed income.

The DLBA supports the production of meaningful housing in our city and our Downtown. Given the ongoing housing crisis, which may be worsened by the negative financial impacts of COVID-19, micro-units could provide another solution to address the need for more affordable housing. While details have not been finalized, the DLBA will continue to work closely with City staff and our Downtown community to ensure a micro-unit pilot program fits with the goals and objectives outlined in our Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and Long Beach's Downtown Plan.

1.38 Un-Square Miles

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kraig Kojian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kraig Kojian
President & CEO

Cc: DLBA Board of Directors