



May 7, 2024

Long Beach City Council  
411 W. Ocean Boulevard., 11th Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Honorable Mayor Richardson and Members of the City Council,

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DTLB Alliance) and enter it into the public record for the City Council meeting scheduled for May 7, 2024, our support for policy recommendations regarding the advancement of affordable housing in the City of Long Beach.

As you may know, the DTLB Alliance is a nonprofit advocate for over 1,400 businesses and 4,000 commercial and residential property owners within our two business improvement districts in Downtown Long Beach.

We write to support the proposals by Mayor Richardson to speed up the development of new affordable housing, increase the supply of affordable units, increase incentives for the development of both ownership and affordable rental housing, support the preservation of existing affordable units, and empower the Community Development Department to improve the affordable housing environment throughout the city.

The housing development strategies proposed to be made permanent serve to streamline both affordable and market rate housing. This effort is critical to the growth of patronage and visitation to Downtown Long Beach, and to the city as a whole. Long Beach was the first large jurisdiction in Southern California with a State-certified Housing Element, a significant accomplishment that identified sites for more than 26,000 potential housing units to be built in the 2022-2029 period — and we must be a city that continues to lead by example.

Last year, Long Beach was recognized by the State of California as a Pro-housing jurisdiction, one of only 47 cities and counties in the state out of 539, however the majority of housing production has occurred in the downtown. Downtown, through zoning and parking minimum changes, has carried the burden focused on the downtown core.

The strategies and solutions outlined in this item will allow additional opportunities to create homes for people at every income level, and of all ages, abilities, and family compositions across our city. Taken together, these strategies will help promote stable, affordable rental and ownership options so that Long Beach remains an accessible place to live, work, build businesses, learn, and play.

As a leading voice for the Downtown community, the DTLB Alliance recognizes the importance of an economically and culturally diverse Downtown. We believe that the development of market- rate and affordable housing is crucial to Downtown's vitality — especially in ways that do not overly lean on our downtown developers and supportive industries with additional tax burdens. Furthermore, we applaud the recognition that in order to grow the City's affordable housing stock, a city-wide approach must be taken which includes the expansion of an inclusionary housing requirement beyond Downtown. Downtown is our city's main economic engine, and it needs housing for people of all income levels across the city to become an even more vibrant destination.

We support item 17 recommended by Mayor Richardson. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Austin Metoyer,  
President & CEO  
Downtown Long Beach Alliance