

Communication from Public

Name: Awoe Mauna-Woanya
Date Submitted: 10/24/2023 09:32 AM
Council File No: 23-1090
Comments for Public Posting: Urban Environmentalists Support Letter for Black Planners of Los Angeles Qualified Minority Organization Application.



October 23, 2023

Council President Paul Krekorian

City of Los Angeles

200 N. Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Support Letter for Black Planners of Los Angeles

Dear Council President Paul Krekorian,

We at Urban Environmentalists write to offer our unwavering support for the Black Planners of Los Angeles (BPLA)'s pursuit to become a "Qualified Minority Organization" in the City of Los Angeles.

We wholeheartedly believe in BPLA's mission and role as an advocacy organization representing Black planners within the city. At Urban Environmentalists, we empower grassroots activists and coalition partners to collaborate in transforming cities and towns into more sustainable, human-centered, and just communities through land use policy reform. We firmly believe that such transformation can only be realized when organizations like the BPLA are recognized and supported in their mission. The work that BPLA does to advance the professional development and advocacy for Black planners aligns perfectly with our vision of creating cities that are environmentally responsible and socially equitable, and our commitment to do our part in rectifying the racist legacies of exclusionary zoning, redlining, Urban Renewal, and more.

Urban Environmentalists and BPLA share a common commitment to achieving a more just, sustainable, and inclusive urban environment. We understand the importance of fostering diversity and equity within the city's various professions and ensuring that planning policies are designed with the best interests of all communities at heart. BPLA's dedicated efforts to address

the disparities in planning and provide a platform for the voices of Black planners and the communities they serve are admirable and deserving of formal recognition.

As BPLA seeks Qualified Minority Organization status in the City of Los Angeles, we write this letter of support to stand with them, believing that this recognition will not only strengthen BPLA but also contribute to the broader goal of advancing racial equity, social justice, and environmental justice in Los Angeles.

For any additional contact, please contact us at: hello@urbanenvironmentalists.org.

Sincerely,

Chris Rhie & Awoenam Mauna-Woanya

Chris Rhie & Awoenam Mauna-Woanya

Urban Environmentalists

