

Communication from Public

Name: Kwan Luu

Date Submitted: 06/15/2025 03:14 PM

Council File No: 25-0408

Comments for Public Posting: I am a property owner in Little Tokyo, writing to call for a delay on this Tuesday's vote on the transition of the Little Tokyo Business Improvement District (BID) from merchant-based to property-based. Numerous concerns about not only the proposal but also the process taken to approve this petition have motivated me to send this email. These include: A lack of answers by the current BID board who are championing this transition on a number of items including: How the board will be structured; How board members will be selected; How property owners paying the proposed BID assessment would interact with the board about future assessment fees and BID operations; How fee-paying property owners will review or provide feedback on the BID's Budget In a survey organized by a coalition of Little Tokyo Community Members, 75% of responding property owners have not received their ballots to vote on the transition. This does not demonstrate a democratic process. I still have not received my vote, despite emailing my affidavit to the City Clerk on May 30. Property owners should have been mailed a ballot automatically, but those who didn't receive one and have submitted a request for a ballot still have not received them in time for Tuesday's deadline. Public meetings have not been publicized and have been held with little accessibility. The in-person meeting scheduled for Monday June 16th at 9 AM was announced only 3 days in advance, and is inaccessible for many working members of the community. Residential parcels do not receive the same level of special benefits as the commercial parcels, but are expected to pay for marketing and activation costs, which solely benefit commercial parcels. These rates are not responsive to payers' needs, and can be increased up to 10% every year without public approval. Given the unprecedented circumstances facing Little Tokyo in the last week, the community has been unable to meet to discuss these concerns with the Little Tokyo Business Improvement District Advisory Board and its members. I am asking that instead of moving forward with business as usual, the Councilmember acknowledge the above concerns and the community's urgent need to address them before this vote moves forward. I am calling on the Council Office to delay the vote, and give our community a chance to inform and discuss this significant change to our neighborhood.

Communication from Public

Name: Cindy Lin

Date Submitted: 06/15/2025 08:43 PM

Council File No: 25-0408

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident and condo owner in Little Tokyo, writing to call for a NO VOTE from the council. I have been firmly opposed to the conversion of the BID in Little Tokyo to property based since learning about the proposal. However, with the more I learn and have witnessed in how the operators of the LT BID conduct themselves as part of their public engagement in this process, have grown even more critical of it. Ellen Endo and David Ikegami have presented this proposal in a handful of Little Tokyo forums, all made inaccessible to the general public based on location, timing, and limited engagement time. In all instances, responses to critical questions could generally be categorized as vague, deflective of their responsibility to other parties, or outright rude and dismissive. These include questions around board governance, budget oversight, and how economic hardship would be addressed for those that simply cannot afford to pay. This last point is one I want to stress because with Little Tokyo's higher average age of resident, many of who are on fixed incomes, inflation already driving up costs, and now the drop in economic activity in the neighborhood, not having an avenue to request a fee dismissal will create the situations that start people on the path of homelessness. With Councilmember Jurado's background in tenant rights, I expect she knows better than anyone how new non-optional costs can endanger folks. There are also many other reasons that I know have been pointed out to the council office, including a large number (75%) of property owners not receiving their ballots (including myself), venues where additional public engagement can occur have not been publicly shared, and the current limitations to meet and discuss this proposal amongst the community due to security and safety concerns. It is with these concerns and more, I urge the council member to vote NO against the Little Tokyo BID conversion.

Communication from Public

Name: Coalition Against LT BID conversion

Date Submitted: 06/15/2025 10:55 PM

Council File No: 25-0408

Comments for Public Posting: Petition to Oppose the Transition to a Property-Based Little Tokyo Business Improvement District (BID) We, the undersigned, are a coalition of property owners, residents, small-business owners, and stakeholders in Little Tokyo who oppose the transition to a property-based Business Improvement District (BID) in its current form and design. The following points highlight our concerns: In moving to a property-based assessment, the BID's budget is slated to increase by nearly 600%, and the Board has the power to raise assessment fees up to 10% annually. The BID Board has demonstrated insufficient transparency into budgeting and planning, and have taken inadequate steps to provide feedback mechanisms. There is no democratic process for residential property owners to affect the board. The LTBA (Little Tokyo Business Association) and BID Board retain full control over the BID, while offloading the majority of costs to the City of LA and residential property owners. The membership of the LTBA Board and LT BID are not publicly available and there are no current mechanisms outlined for accountability of the board or its representatives. Residential parcels do not receive the same level of special benefits as the commercial parcels, but are expected to pay for marketing and activation costs, which solely benefit commercial parcels. The plan to transition to a property-based BID was formed without the input and consultation of the majority of the thousands of homeowners and residents in Little Tokyo and they were left out of the process. Property owners who have received their ballots have voted NO in this matter, further indicating our lack of support for the proposal. We demand the City Council: vote "no" on the ratification of this transition work with the Little Tokyo BID to ensure all homeowners receive their ballots compel the Little Tokyo BID to come to the table with homeowners and residents to resolve the aforementioned issues. 93 stakeholders have signed this petition at the time of public comment submission. Signatures will be provided directly to the district office.