

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Please see correct attached letter from LAANE



October 14, 2024

Councilmember John Lee
Chair, Planning & Land Use Management Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: The Downtown Los Angeles 2040 Community Plan Report Backs Impacting the Garment Industry Recommendations Approved by Full Council in May 2023

Dear Councilmembers,

As a Los Angeles community organization, we support the Garment Worker Center's recommendations for the DTLA 2040 Community Plan to preserve, protect and incentivize this essential industry.

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration with garment workers in assessing the impact this plan would have on thousands of garment industry businesses and their employees within the DTLA Fashion District, as well as the countless neighboring businesses & sectors that support and work with these businesses on a regular basis.

We understand that the City has completed additional report backs and that PLUM has received the City's new recommendations. **We strongly urge PLUM and the City Council to uphold the recommendations that were approved in May 2023** to require 1.0 FAR of Productive Space in IX3 and ensure the preservation of amenities necessary for the garment industry to operate, such as elevators and loading bays in Subarea A.5 of the Fashion District.

Background

In May of 2023, the DTLA 2040 Community Plan was brought to vote and key provisions regarding the future of the Fashion District were adopted. Those provisions include:

1. A prohibition on new hotels in the Fashion District
2. A prohibition on conversion of viable industrial spaces into luxury lofts from 7th street to Santee, to 16th St to Crocker St.
3. Incentives to build more housing if a property owner dedicates 50% of their building to manufacturing in buildings from Broadway to 7th St to Crocker St to 16th St.
4. The establishment of a taskforce to study what resources and trainings are needed to support workers and garment businesses throughout the region
5. Protections against displacement of garment businesses in existing buildings



We strongly believe the approval of these provisions is a tremendous step forward in protecting nearly 20,000 jobs, thousands of small businesses, and the Fashion District's immigrant, low wage workers of color who are the heart of this industry.

Alongside the approval of these protections listed above, several members required a report back on two key provisions regarding the requirement of loading bays and freight elevators in new developments and the Floor Area Ratio of 1.0 FAR in the IX3 subsection of the Fashion District. In response to those report backs, The Department of City Planning (DCP) has sent a final set of recommendations to City Council.

Moving Forward

As a community organization, we strongly urge PLUM and City Council to uphold its previous decision to:

1. Require 1.0 FAR for Productive Space in IX3, to preserve a significant amount of garment manufacturing space in the Fashion District;
2. Require the preservation of freight elevators, loading docks, and loading bays in Subarea A.5, in buildings currently occupied by garment manufacturers AND require these amenities in any new construction. Subarea A.5 is the core area of the Fashion district with the highest concentration of garment manufacturing.

As the Fashion District accommodates the City's housing needs, these two provisions are necessary to support small businesses' spatial needs and workers' job access. These two provisions help to ensure the industry continues to exist in the thriving ecosystem that makes up the Fashion District.

Please uphold these recommendations on behalf of the industry that has called Downtown LA home for over 130 years.

Sincerely,

Jessica Durrum
Deputy Director, Policy & Campaigns