

Communication from Public

Name: Alfonso Directo Jr.

Date Submitted: 09/20/2024 04:40 PM

Council File No: 23-0038-S8

Comments for Public Posting: We urge the City Council and Mayor Bass to adopt the ULA program guidelines as recommended by the ULA COC without amendments, retaining permanent affordability requirements and keeping families in Los Angeles housed for generations.



September 20, 2024

City of Los Angeles Councilmembers
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 23-0038-S8 - Support ULA Permanent Program Guidelines without amendments

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

ACT-LA supports the ULA Permanent Program Guidelines as recommended by the ULA Citizens Oversight Committee (COC), without amendments. These program guidelines were developed and adopted by the ULA COC through extensive collaboration with subject matter experts in the City of LA Housing Department, the United to House coalition, Mayor Bass's office, and the offices of both the Housing & Homelessness and Budget, Finance & Innovation Committee Chairs. As recommended by the COC, these program guidelines comprise the necessary requirements to help address the roots of the affordable housing and homelessness crises in our city, and to achieve ULA's transformative goals, the first of which is to improve residents' access to permanently affordable housing.¹

ACT-LA is a countywide coalition of 46 community based organizations working on the forefront of economic, racial, and environmental justice. Our coalition members include tenants' rights organizations, affordable housing developers, workers' centers, public interest law firms, and environmental justice advocates, among many others. ACT-LA helped lead the campaign to pass Measures JJJ and ULA, and is focused on implementing those measures to increase our City's affordable housing supply and enact policies that promote equitable development.

The affordable housing sector's use of time-limited affordability covenants contributes to the affordable housing crisis. Currently, the City of LA has 5,929 affordable units that will expire by December 31, 2027.² Residents in those homes now face uncertainty about their future rents and may be at risk of displacement. With these program guidelines, we have a rare opportunity to establish a better paradigm, recommended by experts, that keeps homes affordable for generations and that maximizes the public's investment in these homes by keeping them affordable in perpetuity.³

¹ Measure ULA: Los Angeles Administrative Code, Div. 22, Ch. 24, Art. 9, Sec. 22.618.1. PURPOSE.

² https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2023/23-0311_rpt_lahd_11-09-2023.pdf

³ <https://vhcb.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/articles/permanentaffordability06.pdf>

We urge the City Council and Mayor Bass to adopt the ULA program guidelines as recommended by the ULA COC without amendments, retaining permanent affordability requirements and keeping families in Los Angeles housed for generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Raymond', with a stylized, cursive script.

Laura Raymond
Director
ACT-LA