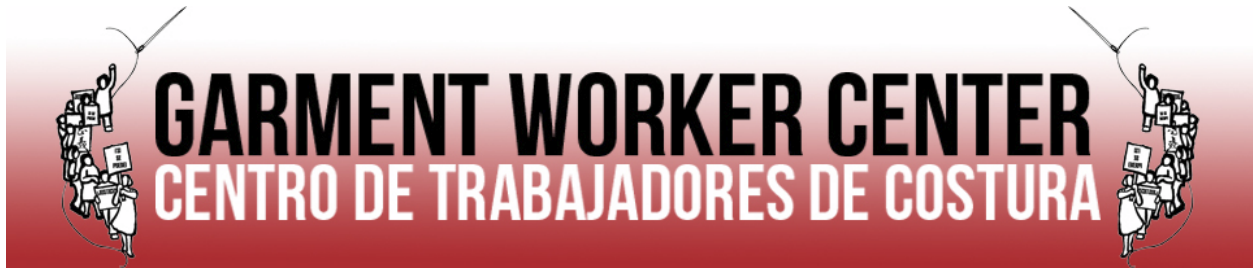


Communication from Public

Name: Marissa Nuncio
Date Submitted: 10/14/2024 05:11 PM
Council File No: 22-0617-S5
Comments for Public Posting: Please see the attached letter.



309 E. 8th St., #302, Los Angeles, CA 90014 ♦ (213) 748-5866 ♦ garmentworkercenter.org

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 Update

The Garment Worker Center (GWC) has been working tirelessly for garment workers for almost 25 years in Downtown Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the nation's garment production capital and the city's largest manufacturing sector. Over 20,000 workers cut, sew and finish garments locally, a workforce composed primarily of Latino/a and Asian immigrants. Workers lead the fight for safe and dignified workplaces with fair wages. We build power from the bottom up for social and economic justice. GWC is a membership organization that reaches over 3,000 garment workers annually and we work closely with local ethical businesses. Together, we work to improve working conditions for workers, support the industry through policy and programming that helps both workers and small businesses, and transform the industry for the industry into a sustainable one at the local and national level.

The GWC has been engaged in the DTLA 2040 Community Plan update process for 3 years working to ensure that the plan allows for much needed housing production while preserving the thriving fashion and garment production industry in the city's Fashion District.

Regarding the City Planning Department's report on IX3 (CF-22-0617-S5), **we respectfully request that the plan's policies for IX3 remain the same as it was adopted in May of 2023.** With demolition, new construction and rehabilitation of older buildings being turned into housing development, the Fashion District will see a significant loss of light manufacturing space used by the businesses that employ

garment workers. Setting aside 1 FAR of Productive Space in a small subsection of the district where the highest concentration of garment related businesses currently exists, allows for the city to preserve some of these uses and keep local workers employed, while creating housing opportunities for the city's residents.

The current plan also considers the preservation of freight elevators, loading docks, and loading bays and requires these amenities in new buildings. These amenities are necessary to the daily operations of garment manufacturing businesses. HR&A Advisors, Inc. stated in their analysis of the Fashion District that “Manufacturing studios have specific spatial and building requirements. To ensure uninterrupted flow of materials and machinery, manufacturing studios must be in buildings with at least one freight elevator and an adequate loading zone at street level.”

In conclusion, we request that the policies adopted in May 2023 remain and the recommendations in CF-22-0617-S5 not be adopted in order to support the local economy, fashion Industry jobs, and small businesses. We commend City Planning and the City Council for ensuring that this plan balances housing and workforce needs and look forward to seeing the plan implemented.

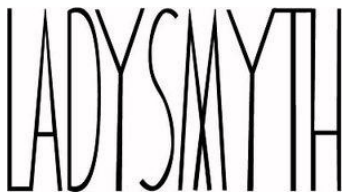
Sincerely,

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

Marissa Nuncio
Executive Director
Garment Worker Center

Communication from Public

Name: Daisy Gonzalez
Date Submitted: 10/14/2024 10:07 PM
Council File No: 22-0617-S5
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter.



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 Los Angeles community organizations, labor groups, and fashion industry related businesses, 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 garment workers, stakeholders, community organizations, labor groups, and businesses, 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 support these recommendations on behalf of the industry that has called Downtown LA home for over 130 years.

Sincerely,

Garment Worker Center
Pilipino Workers Center
LADYSMYTH, INC.
Roboro

UNITE HERE Local 11
ROC United
Ocean+Main
Ethix Merch

Catholic Ethical Purchasing Alliance
LA Black Worker Center
Rule Design & Development
GTLA Apparel Development, Inc