

Communication from Public

Name: Anthony Dedousis
Date Submitted: 04/15/2021 01:15 PM
Council File No: 11-1973-S2
Comments for Public Posting: Hello, Please see attached for Abundant Housing LA's letter SUPPORTING this motion. Regards, Anthony Dedousis



April 15, 2021

Councilmember Mike Bonin
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CF 11-1973-S2 – Adaptive Reuse Ordinance – SUPPORT

Dear Councilmember Bonin,

Abundant Housing LA is a pro-housing, nonprofit advocacy organization working to help solve Southern California's housing crisis. Our organization supports more housing at all levels of affordability and reforms to land use and zoning codes, which are needed in order to make housing more affordable, improve access to jobs and transit, promote greater environmental sustainability, and advance racial and economic equity.

We write in support of your proposed amendments to the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance, which would make supportive and transitional housing eligible uses for the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance, and would remove other barriers that make supportive and transitional housing difficult to build today.

California leads the nation in the total number of people experiencing homelessness, with one in four Americans experiencing homelessness residing in California. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened our homelessness crisis by putting hundreds of thousands of Californians into financial distress and at risk of homelessness. It has also endangered the health and wellbeing of those experiencing homelessness, and depleted local resources. Therefore, the need to address the homelessness crisis with urgency and innovative solutions at this moment is critical.

In 2016, Measure HHH passed with overwhelming support to create 10,000 new units of affordable housing, but the process of actually producing these homes has been slow. Speeding up the permitting process and expanding by-right project approvals can help get housing built more quickly. Currently, supportive and transitional housing are ineligible for Adaptive Reuse Ordinance incentives. Amending the ARO to make supportive and transitional housing eligible uses will help Los Angeles create affordable housing units more quickly. **Additionally, the City should make all affordable housing projects an eligible use for streamlined approval under the ARO, in addition to supportive and transitional housing.**

We are committed to ensuring homelessness becomes brief, rare, and nonrecurrent, and streamlining the conversion of older buildings into new housing can help further this important goal. Thank you for bringing this important motion forward, which we are proud to support.

Sincerely,

Leonora Camner
Executive Director
Abundant Housing LA

Anthony Dedousis
Director of Policy and Research
Abundant Housing LA