

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anthony Dedousis  
**Date Submitted:** 04/15/2021 01:14 PM  
**Council File No:** 17-1432-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, Please see Abundant Housing LA's attached 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 17-1432-S1 – Interim Motel Conversion Ordinance Expansion – 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 the measure to expand the Interim Motel Conversion Ordinance**, which applies the city's current policies that streamline conversion of hotels and motels into supportive and transitional housing to the repurposing of commercial office buildings.

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.

Repurposing existing buildings has made it possible to produce supportive housing and shelter quickly and cost-effectively. Since the Motel Conversion Ordinance was passed in 2018, the City has approved 42 PSH projects resulting in over 3,500 beds, with thousands more in the pipeline. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city was able to bring more than 7,000 people indoors in a short time frame and make use of utilized hotel space.

But as the pandemic ends and tourism ramps up, fewer hotels and motels will be available for conversion. The City should therefore apply these successful streamlining policies to the repurposing of commercial office buildings, not just hotels and motels. **Additionally, the City should make affordable housing an eligible use for streamlined approval, in addition to supportive and transitional housing.**

We are committed to ensuring homelessness becomes brief, rare, and nonrecurrent, and streamlining the conversion of commercial office buildings into 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