

Communication from Public

Name: Mary Leslie

Date Submitted: 04/27/2021 08:58 AM

Council File No: 21-0002-S105

Comments for Public Posting: April 27, 2021 The Honorable Nury Martinez Council President Los Angeles City Council RE: Los Angeles Business Council Support – Council File 21-0002-S105 Dear Council President Martinez, On behalf of the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC), I am writing to express our strong support for Council File 21-0002-S105 calling for the City to support California State Assembly Bill 816 (AB 816). The necessity to develop a comprehensive strategy for people experiencing homelessness across the state is clear, as the crisis continues to worsen and staying housed remains out of reach for far too many people. On any given night, over 150,000 Californians are homeless and the state has the highest rate of unsheltered homeless individuals in the nation. In Los Angeles County alone, the 2020 Point-in-Time count found about 66,436 people experiencing homelessness. The crisis has only worsened in the last year due to the COVID-19 induced pandemic and related job losses, despite the significant resources spent to address homelessness across the state. The lack of comprehensive, enforceable plans from local jurisdictions and communities on the need for increased housing for our most vulnerable individuals and families has significantly exacerbated the growing housing and homelessness crises. The LABC fully supports AB 816's effort to create a process for holding state and local governments accountable for housing the unsheltered based on measurable goals and existing resources they have identified for that purpose. The development of comprehensive plans at the local level will allow the state to better support or encourage localities with the resources and reforms necessary to meet their targets. We believe that establishing a Homelessness Inspector General is essential to strengthening this piece of legislation with real potential for consequences if localities fail to follow through on their plans. Housing, unlike education and healthcare, is one of the few public goods that we treat as a commodity, rather than a basic human necessity. Without an enforceable target, we lack a "North Star" to work towards through planning, collaboration, identifying both existing and needed resources, and providing carrots and sticks to localities. Establishing a legally enforceable mandate has been one of the key priorities for our Working Group on Urgent Homeless Solutions, Co-Chaired by Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas and Mayor Darrell Steinberg, and consisting

of leaders from the private, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors. We must find ways to encourage urgent and bold action, to hold our cities accountable to create housing solutions that will move people off the street and into homes quickly and effectively. The current plan is not sustainable. The LABC thanks you for your steadfast leadership on this issue and we are excited to continuing working together towards addressing the critical need to provide housing opportunities for all Californians. Sincerely, Mary Leslie
President LABC/LABC Institute



April 27, 2021

The Honorable Nury Martinez
Council President
Los Angeles City Council

RE: Los Angeles Business Council Support – Council File 21-0002-S105

Dear Council President Martinez,

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The LABC fully supports AB 816's effort to create a process for holding state and local governments accountable for housing the unsheltered based on measurable goals and existing resources they have identified for that purpose. The development of comprehensive plans at the local level will allow the state to better support or encourage localities with the resources and reforms necessary to meet their targets. We believe that establishing a Homelessness Inspector General is essential to strengthening this piece of legislation with real potential for consequences if localities fail to follow through on their plans. Housing, unlike education and healthcare, is one of the few public goods that we treat as a commodity, rather than a basic human necessity. Without an enforceable target, we lack a "North Star" to work towards through planning, collaboration, identifying both existing and needed resources, and providing carrots and sticks to localities.

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that will move people off the street and into homes quickly and effectively. The current plan is not sustainable.

The LABC thanks you for your steadfast leadership on this issue and we are excited to continuing working together towards addressing the critical need to provide housing opportunities for all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mary Leslie". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Leslie" clearly distinguishable.

Mary Leslie
President
LABC/LABC Institute