



Resolution Regarding  
SUPPORT for Municipal Bank of Los Angeles  
Council File 19-1235

September 7, 2021

WHEREAS a municipal public bank in the City of Los Angeles has the potential to improve the lives of city residents by enabling greater investment in affordable housing, small business development, green new deal initiatives, and city infrastructure; and

WHEREAS a Municipal Bank of LA (MBLA) would create a public and accountable source of capital for lending and investment in fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible activities that would allow investment in opportunities directly benefiting the City and its communities, such as rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, transitioning to a 100% green energy grid, and bolstering environmentally friendly public transportation, among others; and

WHEREAS a public bank would finance public works at a fraction of the price of private capital and operate according to a public mandate thereby serving the interests of the City and its people, all while maintaining a fiduciary responsibility toward responsible financial management within an ethical framework with loyalty toward people and planet; and

WHEREAS the MBLA would be the first municipal bank in the nation, thereby cementing this movement and all who brought it to fruition into history; and the City of LA can lead with vision and inspire cities across the state and the U.S. to follow suit with their own regional and municipal public banks, as we pave the way for a new era of an economic system with greater balance between local and public control of public funds and private finance; and

WHEREAS a MBLA would accept and insure city deposits, ensure liquidity, and provide all the banking and purchasing services the city requires; and make prudent, targeted loans to the City itself, community based small businesses with an emphasis on those that are traditionally underserved by commercial banking, and other responsible parties in sectors of the local economy where capital would make a measurable difference in the lives of Angelenos; and

WHEREAS a MBLA should contain the following elements in its charter making it ethical, sustainable, inclusive, profitable, and financially viable: 1) explicit social/environmental responsibility and anti-corruption clauses with those in charge held accountable to public scrutiny; 2) transparency of mandates, policies, and lending priorities; 3) a board of directors that includes persons associated with community development and financial experts; and 4) where these safeguards would ensure the most democratic bank possible.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Los Angeles County Young Democrats takes a position of SUPPORT for the establishment of a Municipal Bank of Los Angeles (MBLA), pursuant to Council File 19-1235, and strongly urges the LA City Council to expeditiously move and pass motions in furtherance of establishing such an institution.

*Approved September 7, 2021*