

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Los Angeles Business Council

**Date Submitted:** 10/31/2022 07:01 PM

**Council File No:** 21-1230-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** October 31, 2022 TO: Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
FROM: Mary Leslie, President, Los Angeles Business Council  
RE: SUPPORT Council File 21-1230-S2  
(Bonin-Raman-Harris-Dawson-De Leon): Livable Communities Initiative The Los Angeles Business Council (LABC) writes in support of Council File #21-1230-S2, the Livable Communities Initiative. The LABC is a 500+ member organization representing business and civic leaders from all industry sectors focused on innovative public policy that strengthens our economy while improving quality of life for all of us. For more than 80 years, the LABC has had a major impact on public policy by harnessing the power of business and government to promote progress in the Los Angeles region in the areas of energy, housing, transportation, international trade, and economic development. The Livable Communities Initiative would help address multiple crises facing Los Angeles. We have a dire housing shortage that is driving up rents and housing costs across the city, displacing people from once affordable communities, and leading to lengthy commutes and traffic congestion. Los Angeles has the highest percentage of cost-burdened renter households of any major American city, with 59% of Angelenos spending more than 30% of their income on rent, and homelessness tracks with rent burden. It's a straightforward correlation: as rents go up, families on the edge fall into homelessness. We're simultaneously grappling with an urgent global climate crisis and a crisis of street safety. The Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) attempts to address all of these issues holistically and equitably. In LA's eight-year Housing Plan, Los Angeles has committed to adding nearly half a million homes, within the decade, to meet state requirements to address our housing shortage. We believe we can significantly mitigate the traffic and climate impacts of new housing by making it easier and less costly to build healthy, walkable, car-light communities on job-rich commercial corridors, with safe micro-mobility options, near transit and amenities. The goal is to create affordable, mixed- and moderate-income communities throughout Los Angeles – what are often called 15 minute communities, where virtually all of a resident's weekly needs can be found within a short walk, bike, or mass transit ride away. The Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) is included in Los Angeles' 2021-29

Housing Element (Program 131) . With the introduction of a City Council motion, the LABC asks the City Council to expeditiously pass motion 21-1230-S2, which directs the Planning Department, the Department of Building and Safety and Los Angeles Department of Transportation to study and report back on all regulatory changes needed to implement the LCI vision. One viable option is the creation of a Livable Communities Overlay facilitating mid-scale transit-oriented development, incentivizing the creation of housing units where they do not currently exist, and promoting development that is consistent with and/or enhances existing commercial, mixed-use character. These development and zoning standards and street improvements should consider:

- A waiver or reduction of setbacks, unit floor area, and other development standards;
- An inclusionary housing requirement
- The elimination or reduction of parking minimums in “high quality transit areas” or “transit-rich areas”
- A minimum density requirement to promote multifamily development
- An exclusion provision for any parcel of land located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), within an identified historic district, or areas designated as open space
- An exclusion provision for covenanted affordable and rent-stabilized units.
- Street and transportation improvements including complete streets with wide sidewalks, protected bike lanes, dedicated bus lanes, traffic calming, tree canopy, transit shelters, public seating, fast and frequent transit.

We also ask the City to enact a plan to streamline administrative clearance for LCI/LCO projects through objective design standards and to develop a community outreach plan to help select appropriate streets. We believe LCI has the potential to add much-needed multifamily housing in job-rich, high-opportunity areas that have not historically built enough housing, and it can add amenities, walkability, protected bike lanes and safe streets to communities that have been under-served. We call on the city to adopt the LCO and make the street improvements needed to make LCI communities safe, livable and walkable for everyone. Kind regards, Mary Leslie President LABC



October 31, 2022

TO: Members of the Los Angeles City Council

FROM: Mary Leslie, President, Los Angeles Business Council

**RE: SUPPORT Council File 21-1230-S2 (Bonin-Raman-Harris-Dawson-De Leon): Livable Communities Initiative**

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[The Livable Communities Initiative \(LCI\)](#) attempts to address all of these issues holistically and equitably. In LA's eight-year [Housing Plan](#), Los Angeles has committed to adding nearly half a million homes, within the decade, to meet state requirements to address our housing shortage. We believe we can significantly mitigate the traffic and climate impacts of new housing by making it easier and less costly to build healthy, walkable, car-light communities on job-rich commercial corridors, with safe micro-mobility options, near transit and amenities. The goal is to create affordable, mixed- and moderate-income communities throughout Los Angeles – what are often called [15 minute](#) communities, where virtually *all* of a resident's weekly needs can be found within a short walk, bike, or mass transit ride away.

The Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) is included in Los Angeles' [2021-29 Housing Element \(Program 131\)](#). With the introduction of a City Council motion, the LABC asks the City Council to expeditiously pass motion 21-1230-S2, which directs the Planning Department, the Department of Building and Safety and Los Angeles Department of Transportation to study and report back on all regulatory changes needed to implement the LCI vision. One viable option is the creation of a Livable Communities Overlay facilitating mid-scale transit-oriented development, incentivizing the creation of housing units where they do not currently exist, and promoting

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Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mary Leslie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Leslie  
President  
LABC