

Communication from Public

Name: Scott Epstein

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Council File No: 23-0360

Comments for Public Posting: Abundant Housing LA supports CF 23-0360. We urge you to pass this necessary reform, which will be instrumental in producing much-needed affordable and supportive housing.



5/18/2023

Los Angeles City Council Members
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Support – Eliminating Parking Replacement Requirement for LADOT Parking Lots Transferred to LAHD for Utilization as Affordable or Supportive Housing – Council File 23-0360

Dear LA City Councilmembers,

We write on behalf of Abundant Housing LA in strong support of Council File 23-0360 (Yaroslavsky), which would nullify the policy that parking spaces be replaced for LADOT parking lots with 25 or more spaces that are transferred to LAHD for utilization as affordable or supportive housing. With the cost of replacing parking spaces estimated at \$40,000 - \$70,000 per space, this policy has the direct effect of making essential projects to address homelessness infeasible.

Abundant Housing LA is a pro-housing, nonprofit advocacy organization working to help solve Southern California's housing crisis. We support reforms to legalize more homes, make homes easier to build, increase funding for affordable housing, and protect tenants, which are all needed to make housing more affordable, improve access to jobs and transit, promote greater environmental sustainability, and advance racial and economic equity. As a community organization, in order to maintain our independence, we do not accept financial support from housing developers or their consultants.

Publicly owned parking lots offer some of the most attractive sites for construction of affordable and permanent supportive housing. With land costs at a premium, donation of public land can help subsidized projects pencil out. In addition, demolition costs are minimal, and redeveloping parking lots does not involve displacement of any existing housing. We applaud CF 23-0360 as a common sense action which would eliminate a regulation that runs counter to the city's goal of ending homelessness, and which would allow the city to deliver valuable projects at a lower cost.

With 42,000 Angelenos living on our streets, prioritizing parking spots over homes is unacceptable. We strongly urge you to support CF 23-0360.

Sincerely,

Leonora Camner

Leonora Camner
Executive Director
Abundant Housing LA

Scott Epstein

Scott Epstein
Director of Policy and Research
Abundant Housing LA