

MOTION

On December 16, 2022, Mayor Karen Bass issued Executive Directive No. 1 (ED 1), "Expedition of Permits and Clearances for Temporary Shelters and Affordable Housing Types." This historic directive strikes at the very heart of the central challenge facing the City of Los Angeles today - the dire lack of affordable housing, which leaves hundreds of thousands of residents living dangerously on the margins and over 41,000 individuals without a home.

ED 1 lays bare how our City's internal processes have systematically been failing to produce the number of affordable homes needed to house Angelenos. Of the 184,721 Very Low and Low Income units the City committed to building by 2029 as part of the 6th Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) cycle, only 5,354 units were permitted by the end of 2022, which accounts for only 2.9% of our total need. Additionally, lengthy discretionary review processes have added months of delays to bringing new affordable units online, causing costs to increase while future residents are forced to wait even longer to secure stable housing.

ED 1 allows applications for 100% affordable housing projects and shelters to be exempt from discretionary review processes, required either by zoning provisions outlined in Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) or other Project Review, so long as the projects do not require any zoning change, variance, or General Plan amendment.

On February 9, 2023, the respective leadership of the Department of City Planning, the Department of Building and Safety, and the Housing Department issued "Implementation Guidelines For Executive Directive 1," which outlines programmatic steps for actualizing ED 1's provisions.

The results of ED 1, even in 6 months, have been nothing short of dramatic. Since ED 1's issuance, the Department of City Planning approved 20 different affordable and supportive housing projects - totaling over 1,593 units - in an average of 37 days. There are also 28 additional projects, representing upwards of 2,600 new units, currently in the pipeline.

However, given that these policies are a result of an Executive Directive and are tied to an Emergency Declaration that will ultimately expire, there is a clear need to permanently codify these provisions within city law.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Director of City Planning, with assistance from the Office of the City Attorney, to prepare within the next 90 days a draft ordinance codifying the provisions of Executive Directive 1 (ED 1) to the fullest legal extent permissible.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Department of City Planning (DCP), the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), the Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), and the Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to report on the effectiveness and impact of ED 1. The report should include any existing programmatic gaps and recommendations to address them, as well as recommendations on how affordable housing can be distributed in a geographically equitable manner citywide in line with DCP's ongoing work on the policies that will guide the City's Housing Element and RHNA Rezoning Program.

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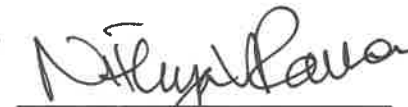
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I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct DCP, LAHD, LADBS, LAFD, and LADWP to provide to Council within 90 days of the preparation of the draft ordinance a briefing on the staffing needs associated with ensuring the full implementation of the provisions outlined within ED 1.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with the assistance of other relevant departments, to request input from the Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing (SCANPH), the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC), AIA Los Angeles (AIA-LA), and the Supportive Housing Alliance (SHA) on additional policy changes that can further enhance the City's ability to expedite the development of affordable and supportive housing.

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:



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