

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: October 13, 2009

TO: Honorable Members of the Housing, Community
and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller *Gerry F. Miller*
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 09-1731
Assignment No. 09-09-1567

Council Oversight Over the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

SUMMARY

We are reporting in response to a Motion (Perry - Garcetti) requesting the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, to prepare and present an Ordinance setting forth the relationship between the City and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) to be modeled on the existing Community Redevelopment Agency (Agency) Oversight Ordinance (C.F. 09-1731). The Motion notes that the current Cooperation Agreement between the City and HACLA does not define an oversight role for the City Council or the Mayor, in contrast to the Oversight Ordinance that governs the relationship between the City and the Agency.

HACLA is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners (Board) appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. All funding for public housing programs provided to the City by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is administered by HACLA. These programs include the Section 8 and Shelter Plus Care rental subsidy programs as well as public housing developments throughout the City. Public housing developments are located in five of the fifteen Council Districts and the Section 8 rental subsidy program assists households citywide. As such, HACLA Board decisions regarding these programs can potentially impact residents citywide.

The City Attorney reports that Public Housing Authorities, such as HACLA, are State entities established under the California Health and Safety Code, which does not provide for direct oversight by local jurisdictions. Moreover, Charter Section 245 does not apply to HACLA. As such, our research indicates that no mechanism currently exists for the City to exercise oversight over HACLA Board decisions that have a wider impact on the City.

The existing Cooperation Agreement between the City and HACLA (Chapter 6 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code) specifies the findings required by State and Federal law to establish the need for a public housing authority, and further describes the responsibilities of HACLA and the City pursuant to this Agreement. An effective means to address the intent of the Motion within the confines of State and Federal law would be to amend this Agreement to provide the City with the authority to influence HACLA Board actions. Accordingly, we recommend that the Council instruct this office to initiate negotiations with the HACLA Board of Commissioners to amend the Cooperation Agreement between HACLA and the City to create a mechanism by which the Council

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may influence and provide input into HACLA Board actions that have wider impact on the City and report to Council in 90 days with recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst to negotiate an amendment to the Cooperation Agreement between the City and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) to create a mechanism by which the city may exercise influence over and provide input into actions of the HACLA Board of Commissioners that impact the City and report to Council in 90 days with recommendations.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund resulting from this action.



Meg Barclay
Analyst

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Attachments

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