Managed by the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), the Foreclosure Registry Program serves as a mechanism to protect residential neighborhoods from blight caused by the lack of adequate maintenance and security resulting from the foreclosure crisis. Any lender, beneficiary, or trustee who holds or has an interest in a deed of trust on a property in foreclosure must register the property with LAHD and remit an annual fee of $155. This registration information is used to ensure that properties comply with code requirements and identifies a direct contact should property issues arise.

The City needs to continue strengthening the Foreclosure Registry Program to ensure that it is effective at protecting residential neighborhoods from blight. To do so, we must implement a proactive inspection plan that is adequately funded and staffed to crack down on foreclosed properties that have been neglected. It is imperative that the City begin drafting language now to amend the existing Foreclosure Registry Program Ordinance. The amendment should include but not be limited to language that directs the following:

- Include an enforcement fee on foreclosed properties that is levied at the notice of default.
- Include dedicated code enforcement staff to conduct proactive inspections of registry properties.
- Include provisions requiring direct communication between banks and investor-owners of foreclosed properties and LADBS.
- Require banks and investor-owners to report monthly on the status of their foreclosed properties.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an amendment to the Foreclosure Registry Program ordinance (181185) within 60 days that reflect the requests made above.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles Housing Department be directed to work with the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office to develop a system that provides more timely information to LAHD regarding Notice of Default properties.

PRESENTED BY _____

ERIC GARCETTI
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY _____

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MAY 18 2012