

14-1561

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a second round of the Promise Zone initiative in the Spring of 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Promise Zone initiative is a part of a plan to partner with and invest in high need communities to create jobs, increase economic development, expand education opportunities, increase access to quality and affordable housing and improve public safety. The first round of awards, announced in January 2014 were located in San Antonio, Texas, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, southeastern Kentucky, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the East Hollywood and surrounding communities of Los Angeles; and

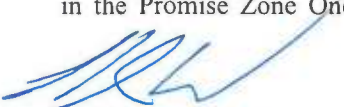
WHEREAS, The Promise Zone designation creates a partnership between the Federal government and local community leaders who are building new collaborative models to address the diverse needs and challenges of their neighborhood residents. Specifically, the designation brings federal staff to each selected community to assist them in identifying and accessing federal assistance and resources. Additionally the designation gives the selected community preference in certain competitive federal grant applications, as permissible under the rules and statutes of the individual programs and agencies subject to appropriations. Organizations contributing to Promise Zone strategies will also receive technical assistance and other non-competitive support, subject to available funding and as permissible; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles was selected in the first round, but the limited area of coverage drew concerns over the high need and demand of other poverty stricken communities and Council Motion 14-0565 passed by the Los Angeles City Council called for acting quickly to obtain maximum benefits for additional Promise Zone designations for deserving areas in the City; and

WHEREAS, since the Second Round of the Promise Zone designation was announced, a broad coalition of community organizations in the South Los Angeles region, led by Los Angeles Trade Technical College and joined by more than 45 local partners, have come together to bring forward a competitive application for the designation that builds on effective strategies, already in place, and cements new partnerships among local NGO's, educational institutions and government agencies. The proposed South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) is an opportunity to reconnect South Los Angeles through new mobility opportunities for communities, residents, businesses and children. The proposal centers on major transit, education, enterprise and redevelopment areas in South Los Angeles and includes a comprehensive strategy that intersects jobs, workforce, education, public safety and business development; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the SLATE-Z area has an aggregated poverty rate of more than 45% and an unemployment rate of nearly 12%, reflecting one of the highest concentrations of poverty and unemployment in the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the proposed SLATE-Z application would build on the collaborative work taking place in the Promise Zone One region of Los Angeles. Specifically, the proposed SLATE-Z region physically

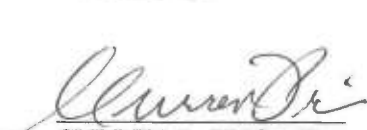
  
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expands the Southern boundary of the City's first designation, building upon successful strategies and building upon them with the proposed vision of creating upward mobility, education to career strategies and career transitions for a thriving economy that intersects both designated areas to create one of the nation's largest anti-poverty efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles created a review process for all communities within the City who were interested in participating and after careful vetting the Mayor's staff selected the SLATE-Z proposed application as the most competitive and likely to secure the designation during this second round

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles formally expresses its support for the proposed SLATE-Z Promise Zone designation and urges the Obama Administration and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support this application.

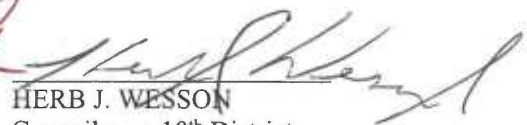
Presented By:



CURREN D. PRICE JR  
Councilman, 9<sup>th</sup> District

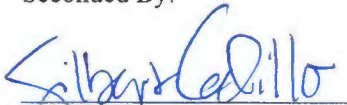


BERNARD PARKS  
Councilman, 8<sup>th</sup> District



HERB J. WESSON  
Councilman, 10<sup>th</sup> District

Seconded By:

  
GILBERT CEDILLO  
Councilman, 1<sup>st</sup> District

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