

MOTION

On October 26, 2016, the Council adopted the Jobs and Business Advancement in Los Angeles Action Plan (C.F. 15-0850) which established a framework for the City to achieve its job creation objectives. The Action Plan identified strategic goals for the City to strengthen its internal capacity to support the local business community and residents. Furthermore, the Action Plan specified two strategies for the City to strengthen external partnerships and regional coordination the Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities (CRIA) and the Jobs and Economic Development Incentive (JEDI) Zones. Both serve as new tools that will involve strategic collaboration with other public agencies and organizations to implement projects across multiple jurisdictions.

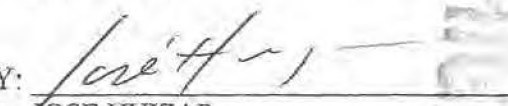
The El Sereno and Boyle Heights areas are ripe for revitalization, investment and job creation and can fully benefit from JEDI Zones and/or CRIAs. The potential in these communities is due to a foundation in resources related to bioscience, biomedical, and biotechnology industries. In 2004, the former Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California commenced discussions to establish a Biomedical Technology Corridor to facilitate the development of investment in these industry sectors. An area encompassing 921 acres across the City and County, involving two redevelopment project areas, Adelante Eastside and Whiteside, was identified. The dissolution of redevelopment agencies across the state stalled the collaboration efforts for both public agencies.

The establishment and potential use of JEDIs and/or CRIAs as economic revitalization mechanisms for the area will advance previous efforts and ensure job creation. A CRIA is maximized when larger partnerships are formed and the City works in unison with other taxing entities toward a shared vision for an area. A JEDI Zone would also facilitate strategic investments in a specific area with revitalization potential and promote future growth. It is critical that both the City and County along with local stakeholders continue efforts to advance this Project which would stimulate the local economy.

The establishment of a CRIA requires a 25 percent set-aside for affordable housing. Therefore, it is prudent to involve the Housing and Community Investment Department of the City (HCID) and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) in the creation of these economic development mechanisms considering the housing requirements. The HCID provides a range of housing and family support programming for the City. HACLA, one of the nation's largest and leading public housing authorities, has initiated preliminary efforts to study and assess the feasibility of establishing CRIAs near their properties. A coordinated effort among all parties will ensure a higher degree of success.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council: (1) Instruct the Economic and Workforce Development Department, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst and the Housing and Community Investment Department, to report on the feasibility of establishing a JEDI and/or CRIA within, but not limited to, the Boyle Heights Community Plan Area, and the LA-32 Neighborhood Council area, and to coordinate efforts with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) and the County of Los Angeles; and (2) Request that HACLA report on their affordable housing strategy for the area, including the creation of a CRIA zone.


OCT 14 2016

PRESENTED BY: 
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Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: 

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