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February 12, 2016

The Honorable Councilmember Herb J. Wesson
Chair, Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations and Neighborhoods Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attn: Richard Williams

REQUEST FOR TRAVEL BAN EXEMPTION TO ALLOW LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND SAFETY STAFF TRAVEL TO ARIZONA TO CONDUCT TESTING AGENCIES, LICENSED FABRICATOR, AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) is herewith submitting for your consideration a request to authorize a blanket exemption for LADBS staff to travel to the state of Arizona, under the special circumstances provisions of CF-10-0002-S36, to conduct City business of Testing Agencies, Licensed Fabricators, and Special Equipment Inspections.

BACKGROUND

The mission of the LADBS is to protect the lives and safety of the residents and visitors of the City of Los Angeles and enhance the quality of life, housing, economic prosperity, and job creation citywide. Through a timely, cooperative, and transparent process, the Department advises, guides, and assists customers to achieve compliance with the Building, Zoning, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical, Disabled Access, Energy, and Green Codes and local and State laws to build safe, well, and fast.

In advancement of the above-stated goals, LADBS conducts site visits at various production facilities and fabricators throughout the United States in order to analyze and inspect products and manufacturing procedures so as to assure they adhere to various building codes and standards under the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) and issue approved licenses if they are in compliance. Types of travel are as follows:

- **Testing Agencies:** To perform quality assurance inspections per LAMC Section 98.0503 at testing agencies to ensure they are utilizing the proper equipment, procedures, and have qualified personnel necessary to perform tests on materials used in construction.
- **Licensed Fabricators:** To perform quality control inspections per LAMC Section 96.204 at fabricator plants to ensure compliance with City of Los Angeles Municipal Codes for

fabricators applying for licenses. Services provided will include initial inspection of facilities, interviews with fabricators, follow-up inspections, and/or annual audits of operations conducted within the last year.

- **Special Equipment Inspections:** To perform special equipment inspections per LAMC Section 93.0230(b) on an as-needed or requested basis.

These inspections promote public safety by ensuring that fabricated construction systems and construction materials tested are in compliance with all applicable codes.

However, pursuant to Council Resolution, LADBS has not been able to perform needed inspections of Agencies/Fabricators located in the state of Arizona. In 2010, the City passed a Resolution (CF 10-0002-S36) to suspend all travel to Arizona in response to the state's passage of Senate Bill 1070 and House Bill 2162. Notwithstanding this general suspension of travel to Arizona, the resolution provided for exceptions if failure to authorize such travel would harm City interests.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council authorize a blanket exemption from the travel ban to the state of Arizona, under the special circumstances provision of CF-10-0002-S36, for the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety to conduct City business. This travel is necessary to enable LADBS staff to monitor fabricators and testing agencies by performing the required due diligence of physically visiting the shops, and verifying facilities and quality control practices and personnel. Without this travel, those shops that do not currently hold a valid license may not provide materials or services to any projects within the City of Los Angeles. Nearly all of the fabricators and testing agencies in Arizona are currently supplying materials and services on several of the biggest projects that have ever been constructed in the City.

Please contact Ana Mae Yutan, Assistant Bureau Chief of LADBS Resource Management Bureau, at (213) 482-6782 should you need additional information regarding this request.



Raymond S. Chan, C.E., S.E.
General Manager

cc: Deron Williams, Chief Deputy CD10
Kelli Bernard, Office of the Mayor
Mathew Szabo, Office of the Mayor
Sharon M. Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer
Holly L. Wolcott, City Clerk