With the approval of Proposition HHH by the voters in November 2016, the City of Los Angeles is embarking on a $1.2 billion dollar housing and facilities construction program with the goal of creating 10,000 permanent supportive housing units to address citywide homelessness and the homeless housing shortage. As part of the implementation of this measure, the City should create a policy that reinvests bond dollars into our local neighborhoods and residents by training and employing them as often as possible on funded projects, while maintaining the unit goal of Proposition HHH.

Unemployment of City residents affects the City as a whole; it causes a greater demand for municipal services and adversely affects the social wellbeing of residents, including their ability to find and afford housing. To that end, the City of Los Angeles has taken many actions to promote City residents receiving employment opportunities at City-sponsored projects. For example, the City Council and the Mayor have approved Community Benefit Agreements, the First Source Hiring Ordinance, the now-defunct Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles Construction Careers Policy, and the Board of Public Works Public Infrastructure Stabilization Ordinance to provide employment opportunities to local residents. While each of these actions has been helpful, they have also illuminated the need for the City of Los Angeles to implement and adopt similar policies on all large scale City-sponsored construction programs in order to obtain broad-based success.

These policies, typically called Project Labor Agreements, seek to address unemployment and underemployment in concentrated poverty within City neighborhoods, including the further promotion and advancement of the skills of the local labor pool. To this end, other similar City policies have required a hiring minimum of local resident workers and disadvantaged workers as one tool to address these larger issues of systemic poverty and unemployment.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council REQUEST the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Bureau of Contract Administration, to prepare and present a draft ordinance that would implement a citywide Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for projects funded with Proposition HHH bond proceeds, including provisions for local hire and employing transitional/disadvantaged workers who are residents of the City of Los Angeles similar to the Board of Public Works Public Infrastructure Stabilization Ordinance and other agreements at the Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles World Airports, and relevant city departments.

PRESENTED BY:

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