



## East Area Progressive Democrats

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Hon. Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

The East Area Progressive Democrats, Los Angeles County's largest chartered Democratic club, urges the City Council to pass a robust Affordable Housing Linkage Fee on new development in the City of Los Angeles.

No one should be surprised to learn that everyday Angelenos are feeling the pressure of economic uncertainty while corporate developers and absentee landlords are actively raising rents, evicting, and displacing Los Angeles' most vulnerable residents: working class families, working poor renters and the elderly.

Currently, over 100 cities across California have a similar fee on new development. Not only is Los Angeles late to adopt such a fee, but it risks allowing an increase in homelessness and displacement if the city does not act quickly, with bold policies like the AHLF, as the cited Los Angeles Times article found.

Any further delay is completely unacceptable especially since residents have *overwhelmingly* agreed to do their part to build a better Los Angeles. We have agreed to:

- Make rapid funding accessible for homeless and affordable housing projects through Measure HHH
- Support rail and bus expansion as well as affordability in Transit Oriented Communities through Measure M
- Pay to make homeless services more readily accessible through Measure H
- Mandate good wages and local preference for hiring through Measure JJJ so that underserved residents get the benefit of job opportunities when new housing is built

Now we ask the City Council ***and corporate developers to do their part*** and contribute to the commitments that we as taxpayers are already making. Los Angeles should stop exempting developers from paying their fair share, and pass a strong linkage fee now.

Sincerely,

Hans Johnson, *EAPD President*, on behalf of more than 8000 members of our club

1. Editorial: *Yes we need a fee on developers to help pay for affordable housing*; Los Angeles Times Editorial Board, June 17, 2017
2. *5% rent increase would push 2,000 Angelenos into homelessness, study warns*; Gale Holland, Los Angeles Times, August 2, 2017

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