



February 12, 2018

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2601

Subject: Council File Number: 17-1432 Interim Motel Conversion Ordinance (CPC-2017-3409-CA, ENV-2017-3410-ND)

Dear Chairman Huizar,

LACI is a non-profit, technology start-up incubator, located in the Arts District of downtown Los Angeles. LACI was created by the city of Los Angeles six years ago to help support the growth of a fair and equitable green economy here in Los Angeles. LACI is an economic engine for the region, and so far our Portfolio Companies have created over 1500 jobs. However, like many other Angelenos, our entrepreneurs and their employees have a difficult time finding housing that is affordable. The problem is particularly acute for those entrepreneurs who want to live downtown, close to their place of work.

We are just a few blocks from Skid Row and every day we're confronted with the realities of the difficult circumstances faced by many of our fellow Angelenos. We are writing today to SUPPORT adopting Council File Number 17-1432, a proposed Interim Motel Conversion Ordinance for the City of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles is experiencing a crisis in the number of our fellow Angelenos suffering homelessness. While the problem is regional as well as local, the City of Los Angeles needs to do all it can to help those suffering homelessness, to access services and shelters in the short-term as well as find ways to transition them to becoming housed in the long-term. Supportive housing has been proven to be a crucial, and extremely effective, step in the housing of those suffering from homelessness, and as such the City of Los Angeles should do what it can to help more Supportive Housing units be brought online. Such units can be provided through the renovation of existing motel complexes into multi-unit supportive housing structures, a relatively inexpensive, and potentially faster and more adaptive manner of providing supportive housing units over building de novo units.

The proposed ordinance takes a lot of care to make sure that any changes made to motels would be in keeping with the surrounding land use and zoning of said properties. By permitting these changes on a temporary basis, the proposed ordinance smartly leaves open to future need the choice to maintain a property as supportive housing, or revert it back to use as a motel.

This ordinance will create a streamlined planning process that removes unnecessary barriers and red tape to building homes specifically for homeless individuals. Without this ordinance, we can't build 1,000 units per year for homeless individuals. LACI believes strongly that this proposed ordinance should become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Swords". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "S".

Michael Swords
Vice-President of Government Relations
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)