MOTION

Los Angeles has the second least affordable housing market in the United States, falling only behind San Francisco. According to the 2019 Demographic International Housing Affordability Survey, Los Angeles is the third most unaffordable of all cities in the world that have a population of 5 million people or more. Los Angeles County has a shortfall of 516,946 homes affordable to the lowest income renters. The number of households in Los Angeles that both qualify for affordable housing and are rent burdened or severely rent burdened vastly outstrips the available affordable housing units, and high levels of rent burden and severe rent burden are seen in all parts of LA County.

An underbuilding of affordable housing over an extended period of time is one primary cause for the homelessness crisis that Los Angeles County is facing today. A 2017 study found that just a 5 percent increase in median rent would push an estimated 2,000 additional people in Los Angeles into homelessness. Therefore, affordable housing production is essential to alleviating and preventing homelessness.

For the Fifth Revision of Los Angeles County's Housing Element, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) allocated 82,002 homes to the City of Los Angeles. Fifty-seven percent of the homes that are to be built over the Fifth Housing Element Cycle (2014-2021) are to be affordable to those which fall under the Very Low, Low, or Moderate Income level and forty-three percent are to be affordable to those who fall under the Above Moderate Income level. By the end of 2018, the City had met 210 percent of its RHNA allocation for Above Moderate Income households, but only 20 percent for Very Low and/or Low Income households and 3 percent for Moderate Income Households. In the City of Los Angeles, more than 90 percent of the homes permitted since 2014 are for households earning 120 percent or more of AMI.

Due to the pace at which housing units are created in the City and the sheer quantity of homeless individuals who need housing, moving forward the Council should continue to identify City properties for housing purposes and restrict their use to affordable housing development only. Further, the City should make all attempts to maximize the number of affordable housing units built on those properties.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council restrict the use of City owned land identified for housing purposes to housing development that is 100 percent affordable, with an effective start date of January 1, 2020, and that the City Administrative Officer notify the Department of City Planning, Housing and Community Investment Department, and all other relevant Departments of the restriction.

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SECONDED BY:

PRESENTED BY:

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Councilmember, 10th District

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