

14-279

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MOTION

The nation has experienced a steady decline in manufacturing as companies seeking lower production costs have relocated to foreign countries. Despite this downward trend, Los Angeles County continues to be home to the nation's largest manufacturing industry, alone producing approximately 365,000 manufacturing jobs. Manufacturing jobs are a critical component of our region's economy and the City must enact policies favorable to the local industry.

Cities across the nation have enacted policies that are supportive and favorable to local manufacturing environments. For example, San Francisco established a non-profit ("SFMade") which has contributed to an increase in manufacturing jobs. Additionally, San Francisco rezoned some industrial areas to ensure that rent for industrial spaces was on par with those in the rest of the city. Similarly, the City of Chicago created the Manufacturing Renaissance Council, which is a coalition of representatives from business, labor, government, and education, to focus on making Chicago a global leader in advanced manufacturing.

In order to increase manufacturing and assist local businesses, the City of Los Angeles should conduct a review of manufacturing initiatives in other cities, and otherwise consider ways in which the City can encourage more local manufacturing. Some of these policy options might include:

- Streamlining approval of construction or build-out of manufacturing facilities;
- Eliminating redundant or unnecessary approval processes for equipment used in manufacturing;
- Encouraging the purchase of locally manufactured goods and components by the City and its agencies, and by the public.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst, in consultation with any other necessary departments, to conduct a review of policies adopted by other cities to encourage local manufacturing, and to make recommendations for Council consideration.

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ORIGINAL