

MOTION

Opportunity Zones were established as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to promote economic development in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide. As part of this program, the City presented a list of Opportunity Zone-eligible tracts to the Governor of California for consideration to be included in the program, and in March 2018, the Governor approved 193 census tracts across the City that are eligible to receive funds through the Opportunity Zones program.

In late 2018, the federal Department of Finance issued draft regulations regarding the implementation of the Opportunity Zones and requested public comment on those regulations. The City authorized the Economic and Workforce Department (EWDD) to submit comments on those regulations to ensure that the Opportunity Zone program would be effective in supporting economic development in the City.

Recently, both the federal Department of Finance and the Department of Housing and Urban Development released revised regulations concerning implementation of the Opportunity Zones program. At this time, EWDD and the City's Housing and Community Investment Department should be directed to review and comment on these additional regulations to ensure that final Opportunity Zone regulations are effective in supporting the City's goals in creating new jobs and seeking new investments in economic development and housing. Further, these comments should address provisions to ensure adequate oversight and reporting requirements to allow the City to monitor progress of the Opportunity Zone program.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Economic and Workforce Development prepare and submit comments on the federal Opportunity Zone program, in cooperation with the Housing and Community Investment Department, to ensure that the final Opportunity Zone regulations are effective in supporting the City's goals in creating new jobs and seeking new investments in economic development and housing and provide adequate oversight and reporting requirements.

Presented by:   
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Seconded by: 

ORIGINAL

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