PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT

MOTION

On March 24, 2017 the City Council approved the Hillside Construction Regulation Ordinance (Ordinance No. 184827, Council File No. 16-1472-S1) establishing a Hillside Construction Regulation (HCR) Supplemental Use District (SUD), to further regulate construction in hillside areas. The Hillside Construction Regulation SUD established hauling operation standards, construction activity standards, grading limits, and a discretionary review process for large scale projects to reduce construction impacts.

In Council District 4, the HCR Ordinance is applied to Laurel Canyon and the Bird Streets and portions of the Bel Air Beverly Crest Communities. These areas formed some of the first pilot locations for the HCR overlay, and the implementation there has had clear positive results for quality of life in these neighborhoods which featured high concentrations of active construction, alongside substandard streets, restricted ingress and egress, below average emergency response times, lack of pedestrian infrastructure and location in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFSZ).

However, the pilot areas now protected under the HCR are far from the only hillside portions of Council District 4 characterized by these same constraints. Additionally, most hillsides are now facing increased pressures under the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the City’s Safer at Home Order, a greater percentage of hillside residents are at home during the day. This puts them under pressure to telecommute and home-school children, all while being next door to ongoing construction. This puts many more residents at risk of day-time evacuations potentially conflicting with construction activity. For all these reasons the Hillside Construction Regulations should be applied consistently to all Los Angeles hillsides facing similar constraints and challenges.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Planning Department prepare and present an amendment to the Hillside Construction Regulation Supplemental Use District that will standardize the definition and comprehensively map all recommended locations for the HCR SUD Citywide.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Planning Department, prepare and present an amendment to the Hillside Construction Regulation Supplemental Use District to include the HCR overlay in all Council District 4 hillsides which feature high concentrations of active construction, substandard streets, restricted ingress and egress, below average emergency response times, lack of pedestrian infrastructure and location in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones; specifically including, but not limited to the communities of Bowmont Hazen, and Coldwater Canyon.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Planning Department to add the HCR SUD to all hillside and VHFSZ parcels to the map of proposed zoning changes as part of the Hollywood Community Plan Update.

PRESENTED BY: DAVID E. RYU (verbal)
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: PAUL KORETZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 5th District