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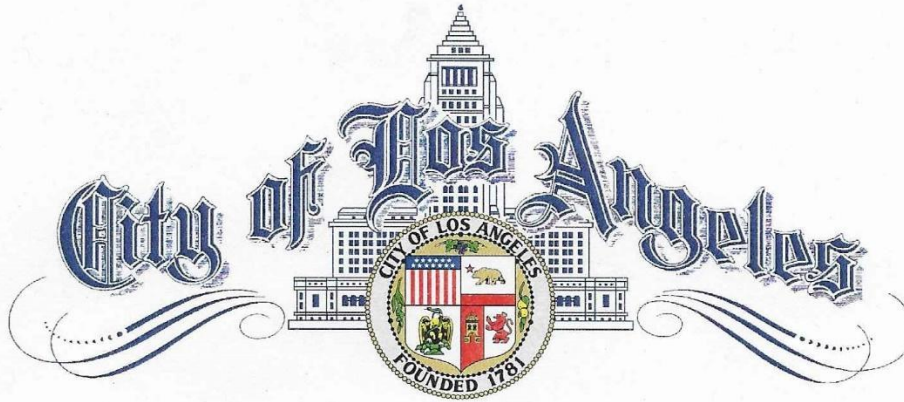
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Councilmember, Fifth District

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September 3, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

via email: [leg.unit@gov.ca.gov](mailto:leg.unit@gov.ca.gov)

RE: Senate Bills 9 and 10 -- Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing to strongly urge you to veto Senate Bills 9 and 10.

The Los Angeles City Council recently voted to oppose both bills, noting that the seriously detrimental intrusion on local control these bills represent may very well up-end the substantial work the City has undertaken to effectuate a voter-approved measure (Measure J) to increase the City's stock of affordable housing. During our floor discussion there was widespread support for elevating the City of Los Angeles' efforts to provide more affordable housing and for working collaboratively both with the legislature and your office to create mechanisms that can work for jurisdictions throughout the state. However, we overwhelmingly rejected the blatant usurpation of authority these bills represent.

As a local lawmaker representing a relatively affluent part of Los Angeles, I am well aware of the challenges we face in meeting the demand for truly affordable housing, both in my district and throughout the city and state. To adapt Albert Einstein's famous edict, these bills, which mandate more market-rate and luxury housing without any affordability requirements, represent a "more of the same" form of insanity in the area of land use planning. The City of Los Angeles has its own "Transit-Oriented Communities" program which, despite some flaws, at least requires the provision of on-site affordable units in exchange for increased density. I see no such requirements in Senate Bills 9 and 10.

Another glaring problem with these bills is the manner in which they allow "density blockbusting" in single-family neighborhoods, where allowable density has already been doubled by the state-mandated Accessory Dwelling Unit requirements. For the foreseeable future during which automobiles, be they gas-driven or totally clean, will continue to dominate mobility in our state, the elimination of parking requirements these bills allow the promise to make our neighborhoods unlivable in terms of basic functionality.

Governor Gavin Newsom

September 3, 2021

Page Two

Additionally, these pieces of legislation obliterate landscaping and California Environmental Quality Act requirements that take us in exactly the wrong direction as we struggle to combat climate change impacts that have brought us droughts, out-of-control wildfires, the decimation of wildlife habitats, and other disastrous effects.

Moreover, what's lacking in both SB 9 and SB 10 is an unconditional exemption for parcels in the City's hillsides and canyon areas, which are considered High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The density that will result should the bills be enacted will have serious detrimental impacts on public safety in these areas, where evacuation routes during wildfires and other emergencies are likely to become even more clogged with additional people and cars attempting to escape.

The City of Los Angeles is more than willing to work with state officials and legislators to develop housing production requirements and incentives that work and which are respectful of our mutual constituents' desires for locally-based land-use decision making. Los Angeles, which already is a state leader in new housing production, stands ready to work on creating new, denser housing that meets the real need for affordability (as we are striving to do with our Measure HHH Supportive Housing program to combat homelessness) and to locate it where our infrastructure and transportation systems can effectively accommodate it.

For all the reasons stated above, I am strongly requesting that you veto Senate Bills 9 and 10. Your subsequent leadership in bringing local leaders together with state policymakers can end years of state-versus-local conflict on land use legislation and help our state become a more affordable, welcoming place for all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Koretz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**PAUL KORETZ**

Councilmember, 5th District

cc: Ronda Paschal