



**DOWNTOWN
LONG BEACH
ALLIANCE**

November 17, 2020

Honorable Mayor Garcia and Members of the Long Beach City Council
Civic Center Plaza
411 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: H-50 Midtown (SP-1) and Downtown (PD-30) Micro-Unit Ordinance

Dear Mayor and Members of Long Beach City Council,

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Downtown Long Beach (DLBA) Board of Directors and enter into the public record for the Long Beach City Council meeting scheduled for November 17, 2020, support for the proposed micro-unit housing pilot program in the Midtown and Downtown areas. The proposed pilot program aligns with DLBA'S goal of supporting increased housing production in the Downtown as outlined in DLBA's Vision 2020: Strategic Plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many issues already facing California and the City of Long Beach, including health equity, digital access, and housing affordability. As our community continues to tackle the housing crisis, now more than ever it is necessary to provide reasonable, expanded housing options.

While the micro-unit program would be just one of 29 housing policy recommendations adopted citywide, the program shows particular promise for the dense urban environments of Downtown and Midtown Long Beach. Many of the larger parcels in these areas have already been entitled or undergone development, leaving many of the remaining sites small and irregular. The versatility in size and design of micro-units allows for innovative housing solutions on otherwise constrained parcel sites, thus overcoming many of the design challenges that previously prevented traditional residential construction.

Beyond design versatility, affordability is by far the most promising aspect of a micro-unit pilot program. Smaller units combined with sustainable construction practices can allow for the production of more affordable housing stock.

The DLBA supports the production of meaningful housing in our city and our Downtown. Given the ongoing housing crisis, which may be worsened by the negative financial impacts of COVID-19, micro-units could be another solution to address the need for more affordable housing. We appreciate the opportunity to share our support for the proposed micro-unit pilot program. We encourage the City Council to approve

1.38 Un-Square Miles

the ordinance amendment allowing for a micro-unit pilot program in the Midtown (SP-1) and Downtown (PD-30) areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kraig Kojian', written in a cursive style.

Kraig Kojian
President & CEO

Cc: Dr. Mayor Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Tom Modica, City Manager, City of Long Beach
DLBA Board of Directors
Oscar Orci Director of Development Services, City of Long Beach