

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PlanningCommissioners](#)  
**Subject:** Zone In Comment letter  
**Date:** Thursday, November 3, 2022 4:58:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [azcip draft.pdf](#)

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**-EXTERNAL-**

Hello,

Please see the attached comment letter regarding the Anaheim Corridor rezoning improvement plan.

Regards,

Dinesa

**Dr. Dinesa Thomas-Whitman**  
**Vice President of Programs**  
**Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles**  
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Bellflower, CA 90706





Building a Greater Los Angeles

Planning Commission  
City of Long Beach  
411 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Commissioners:

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (Habitat LA) built its first home in the City of Long Beach, and this city has continued to be a focal point of our work. Since our founding, we have built, rehabilitated, and repaired more than 288 Long Beach homes and continue seeking opportunities to engage residents in this vibrant community. Habitat LA recently built ten new homes for ownership, and we have plans to build 36 homes on Locust Ave. and 14th Street.

Through our Neighborhood Revitalization Program, Habitat LA's work has extended into working alongside residents in the Washington Neighborhood to support efforts to improve the quality of life for residents who call the neighborhood home. Habitat LA has served on the City of Long Beach Advancing Peace committee (formerly Safe Long Beach) as the anchor institution for the Washington Neighborhood, partnering with Washington Middle School and parents to launch a Safe Passage program, hosting virtual and in-person leadership development workshops and hosting several cohorts of homebuyer education classes in the community to help educate residents interested in affordable homeownership opportunities.

In the Spring of 2019, Habitat LA wrote a letter of support on behalf of the city of Long Beach to request SB 2 grant funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development. Once Long Beach was awarded, we recognized the need to help educate the community about the complex public policy issues of land use and zoning. Consequently, during the pandemic in the spring of 2021, Habitat LA hired renowned urban planners James Rojas and John Kamp to host a virtual Place it! Workshop series. The focus of these workshops was to help residents become amateur urban planners and prepare to participate in the ACZIP by assisting them in identifying their community's goals and united visions.

During the Place It! Workshop series, eighty-seven unique residents, participated in eight workshops. The overarching vision for the Washington Neighborhood that emerged from the workshops is below. The residents of the Washington Neighborhood envision a neighborhood where...

- housing is affordable for current residents to continue living without displacement, and residents can enjoy the changes and improvements in the neighborhood.
- there are clean, green, and safe spaces for gathering, learning, exploration and recreation. These spaces include plazas, expanded sidewalks, improved parks, and farms and gardens.



## Building a Greater Los Angeles

- community spaces in which there are opportunities for language learning and cultural exploration.
- buildings are vibrant and announce that the neighborhood is special, a place to stop and linger and not just a travel through on the way to the freeway.
- street crossings are designed for pedestrians, families, and people riding bikes.
- opportunities for local artisans, farmers and gardeners to produce and sell their products.

The themes represent the vision of those attending the spring 2021 Place It! workshop series hosted by Habitat LA. We hope their voice and vision guide the planning commission as you consider the proposed zoning code updates.

Regards,

*Dinesa Thomas-Whitman*

Dr. Dinesa Thomas-Whitman  
Vice President of Programs