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From: Daniel D. Kelson [mailto:kelson@carnegiescience.edu]

Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 11:42 AM

To: Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>

Subject: City Council Agenda Item 21-0921 — CD8 - Opposition to SB9 & SB10

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Councilperson Saro and Mayor Garcia,

I am deeply concerned at the level of opposition to SB9 and SB10 in the city council of our great city of Long Beach.

As a long time resident and homeowner in the Wrigley neighborhood—with its already varied and mixed family residences—I find the comments by the council members from the 8th, 3rd, and 5th districts to be wildly out of touch, at best, and, at worst, another attempt to preserve individual property valuations at the expense of the health of the city.

These three city council members present a justification to oppose the new legislation by writing that “SB 9 and SB 10 are not consistent with the efforts that our City has been undertaking, including significant public outreach and engagement, to facilitate the development of new, affordable housing, while maintaining the integrity and character of our neighborhoods.”

The lack of affordable housing in our city is not an issue of “public outreach” or “engagement” full stop.

The dearth of affordable housing for the residents of Long Beach is well know to be an issue of a lack of supply. And the supply is heavily restricted because so much of the zoning for single-family residences precludes having even modest increases in density, such as what could be provided by allowing for duplexes or quadplexes where there is room.

In Long Beach there is room. And there is an urgent need.

It is shocking in 2021 for our civic leaders to fall back on racist tropes like “character of our neighborhoods” in order to oppose modest enhancements in the livability of our great city. What makes our city the fantastic place to live that it is, is the people, and their connections to their neighborhoods. We do not make our city and neighborhoods better by being exclusionary or by using language that unambiguously harkens from the days of redlining.

Please oppose the efforts by council members Price, Austin, and Mungo and urge the city to show strong support for SB9 and SB10.

Thank you for your time,
Daniel Kelson, PhD
Carnegie Observatories
Longtime homeowner and resident of the 6th district