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## **City Controller Kenneth Mejia Urges City Council Allow Affordable Housing in Single-Family Zones**

*Controller Calls for More Housing Where There Is the Greatest Demand and the Least Impact To Vulnerable Tenants*

LOS ANGELES – Ahead of the City Council’s Tuesday, December 10th vote on whether to pass the Citywide Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) ordinance, City Controller Kenneth Mejia issued a letter calling for Council to protect renters and support the construction of affordable housing to end the homelessness and housing affordability crisis by expanding it into high resource single family zones that have historically excluded the most vulnerable residents. Additionally, he made the following statement:

“We urge City Council to modify the CHIP Ordinance so that its geographic scope is expanded to include all areas in need of affordable housing - specifically and most importantly, high resource single-family zones.

“We must use every tool at our disposal to get more housing built across the City, especially in high resource areas.

“In its current draft, the CHIP Ordinance exempts single-family zones from affordable housing. It does nothing to remove the current affordable housing ban in 72% of the City’s residential land. This undermines legal requirements as well as the City’s ability to effectively address both the housing shortage and historical patterns of segregation. This absolutely should be changed.

“Why does the City of Los Angeles have one of the worst housing crises in the nation, with soaring rent and 45,000 unhoused? The answer is, largely, decades of inefficient and ineffective land use.

“Single-family zoning is a roadblock to inclusivity. Its history is steeped in racial and class segregation. It has exacerbated inequality in education, transportation, parks, public safety, job access, generational wealth, and healthy environments. Single-family zoning around Metro stations has limited who gets to ride. And it has contributed to climate change by preventing dense housing near transit and jobs.

“The City's plan to accommodate 456,000 new homes by 2029 through CHIP is commendable. However, it is imperative that the City do more to advance equity and help reach our goal of Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, and include high resource single-family zones in CHIP. The City must allow more housing where there is the greatest demand and the least impact to vulnerable tenants.”