



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 491 (Gonzalez)—Housing: Affordable and Market Rate Units

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I urge your signature on Assembly Bill 491. This bill proposes to address stigma around low-income renters by providing all new mixed-income residential units the same access to amenities, regardless of affordability covenant.

The City supports affordable housing policies consistent with the City's 2013-2021 Housing Element (Housing Element) adopted on January 7, 2014. One of the goals detailed in the Housing Element is to provide increased opportunities for the construction of high-quality housing while ensuring fair and equal housing opportunities. The City's Housing Authority receives funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide almost 7,000 Section 8 rental assistance vouchers to low-income individuals and families so they can afford to rent decent, safe, and sanitary housing. The City's Section 8 recipients' prospects of obtaining quality housing would benefit from AB 491.

Housing is a social determinant of health, and low-income residents, who are more likely to be Black, Latino or Asian-American and Pacific Islander, are disproportionately burdened by patterns of segregation and health inequities. On August 11, 2020, the City Council unanimously voted to adopt a Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Initial Report (Report) with equity goals to improve health and wellness in the City by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism. The City is committed to a myriad of strategies to advance affordable housing, and AB 491 aligns with the Report's housing strategies.

Requiring new mixed-income residential units equal access to amenities, as AB 491 proposes, would improve housing opportunities for low-income residents in California. Given these reasons, the City requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", written over a white background.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

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