



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

June 30, 2023

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1657 (Wicks)—The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of AB 1657 (Wicks). This bill would place a \$10 billion bond measure on the March 2024 ballot to support the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing. The \$10 billion distribution would include \$5.25 billion to the Multi-Family Housing Program (MHP), \$1.75 billion to supportive housing administered through MHP, \$1.5 billion for programs to preserve or rehabilitate existing subsidized or unsubsidized rental housing, \$1 billion to the CalHOME Program and the My Home down payment assistance program, and \$500 million to the Joe Serna Junior Farmworker Housing Program. AB 1657 aligns with the City's objectives to support policies, legislation and grants that maximize funding and funding flexibility for the development and enhancement of affordable and/or accessible housing within the City.

The City is committed to addressing barriers to affordable housing and services for Long Beach residents. Long Beach has supported the development of 530 new interim housing units since 2020 and nearly 600 new affordable housing units over the past five years, with another 760 affordable units in the development pipeline. The City also adopted inclusionary zoning and tenant assistance policies to further support housing stability. Despite these efforts, the [2023 Homeless Point in Time Count](#) found that 3,447 people were experiencing homelessness in January 2023. More than half of those surveyed reported experiencing their first episode of homelessness, representing an 18 percent increase in first-time homelessness from the 2022 Count. AB 1657 would help Long Beach prevent and reduce homelessness by advancing the development of much-needed affordable housing.

Housing affordability and homelessness are among the most critical issues facing California. AB 1657 would fund programs that build affordable housing for lower income families, supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness, farmworker housing, tribal housing, homeownership opportunities, and preservation of existing affordable housing. Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1657.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District