



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

May 1, 2023

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5210
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Support for AB 1734 (Jones-Sawyer)—Local Government: Surplus Land

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of AB 1734. This bill would expand the definition of exempt surplus land to include land that is disposed of by certain local agencies for emergency shelters, supportive housing, transitional housing, or affordable housing. AB 1734 would help the City facilitate the development of interim housing for people experiencing homelessness.

In an effort to address homelessness in recent years, the City has added more than 530 new interim housing units and nearly 600 new affordable housing units, opened the first year-round bridge housing facility, secured four hotels for interim housing, and purchased more than 30 modular shelter units. The City is also strengthening strategic partnerships with educational institutions to support housing production and add to Long Beach's housing stock for students, families, teachers, and education staff—through the program known as the Long Beach Housing Promise.

Despite historic investments in prevention, housing, outreach, and other solutions, we have continued to see people fall into homelessness. On January 10, 2023, the City declared an emergency on homelessness, which expedites the permitting and review process for development projects related to addressing homelessness, including but not limited to emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, and affordable housing. AB 1734 will strengthen the City's capacity to address the homelessness crisis by providing additional pathways for interim housing development.

For these reasons, the City supports AB 1734.

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