REMINDER: Planning Commission to Hear Housing Element Update (HEU)

**Description:** On October 7, 2021, the Planning Commission will hear the following project at its regularly scheduled meeting:

**Proposed Project:** The proposed project involves an update to the Housing Element (6th Cycle) a required element of the City’s General Plan. The document sets citywide goals, objectives and policies for housing. It establishes a roadmap for accommodating projected housing unit demand for existing and future residents over the next eight years. As required by state law, the document shows how the City can accommodate demand for housing at all income levels, including through future rezoning of properties consistent with the adopted Land Use Element (LUE) of the General Plan.

**Environmental Review:** Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines, the City, as Lead Agency, prepared an addendum EIRA-02-21 to a previously certified Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) EIR 03-16, State Clearinghouse No. 2015051054 prepared for the General Plan Land Use Element (LUE) Update and Urban Design Element (UDE).

For more information or to submit written testimony, contact Alejandro Sánchez-López, Project Planner, at Alejandro.Sanchez-Lopez@longbeach.gov or 562.570.6553.

**Meeting Date:** October 7, 2021  
**Meeting Time:** 5:00 p.m.  
**Meeting Place (In-Person):** 1st Floor Civic Chambers, City Hall  
411 W. Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802  
Masks are required for in-person attendance regardless of vaccination status.

**Meeting Place (Virtual):** The Planning Commission meeting will be available virtually pursuant to Executive Order N-08-21 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom. The public may attend and participate in-person, virtually, or by teleconference. Public Comment may be made in person, in writing, virtually, and by phone. Written public comments can be submitted by email at PlanningCommissioners@longbeach.gov.

For information on how to participate in the meeting virtually via Webex, visit: longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/commission/

To view or download the meeting agenda, when available, visit: longbeach.legistar.com
City of Long Beach partners with Mercedes-Benz Research & Development North America and Xtelligent.

The City of Long Beach has entered into a public-private partnership with Mercedes-Benz Research & Development North America, with support from Mercedes-Benz USA Urban Mobility Solutions, and Xtelligent to develop transportation technology systems that will improve urban transportation management and enhance liveability and environmental sustainability in and around the city.

“This public-private partnership will keep Long Beach at the forefront of emerging transportation technologies,” said Mayor Robert Garcia. “This project will showcase our city’s skilled workforce, provide more STEM learning opportunities for students, and represents our city’s continued commitment to building a technology focused ecosystem.”

The public-private project will span a period of 10 months and will include:

- Testing an intelligent intersection control system to safely adapt traffic signal timing at select intersections
- Data analysis from connected test vehicle fleets and existing physical sensors around the city to provide information that may improve future transportation policy and traffic engineering decisions
- A community youth workshop for Long Beach residents and students

In alignment with the Long Beach Accelerator Program, the partnership supports the City’s efforts to work with local businesses on leading edge technology and civic impact while also cultivating science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) opportunities for Long Beach students. Health and safety permitting, a community-based workshop will provide STEM education to local students, with an emphasis on under-resourced communities.

The project is also part of Long Beach’s Smart City Initiative to leverage data and technology as strategic tools to solve challenges and improve the lives of Long Beach residents.

The public-private partnership with Mercedes-Benz and Xtelligent reflects Long Beach’s vision to advance environmental sustainability and digital inclusion to ensure that everyone has equitable access and use of digital literacy training, the internet, technology devices and other digital inclusion resources. Solving transportation
challenges is also a focus of Mercedes-Benz, and this unique partnership offers the ability to potentially solve very real issues — congestion and its associated emissions — in urban areas.

“We are excited to partner with Xtelligent and the City of Long Beach to research solutions to urban transportation challenges. With our test vehicle fleet, we hope to provide key data to optimize traffic signal timing and reduce congestion,” said Philipp Skogstad, CEO of Mercedes-Benz Research and Development North America.

Data protection is a top priority for Mercedes-Benz, Xtelligent and the City, and the parties are committed to using data responsibly. Mercedes-Benz and Xtelligent will only share test vehicle data with appropriate notices and consents, and any data that must be shared with third parties will be anonymized and aggregated. This project is a joint effort between the City’s Technology and Innovation Department, Public Works Department and Economic Development Department.

“This partnership represents the best of what a forward-thinking city, leading automotive original equipment manufacturer (OEM) and innovative venture can uniquely enable when collaborating towards a common, worthwhile goal,” said Michael Lim, cofounder of Xtelligent. “We’re excited to use our collective resources to develop and demonstrate how technology can improve the liveability, vitality, and sustainability of Long Beach.”

Upon the pilot’s conclusion, the team will evaluate results and explore opportunities to scale the effort.

Source: Mercedes Benz, USA.

Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach Crowds ‘About Normal’ Despite Pandemic

An estimated 180,000 people, just marginally lower than 2019 numbers at 187,500, came to the city for the three-day event, which concluded Sunday, Sept. 26. They ate at local restaurants, stayed in Long Beach hotels and they watched as Southern California native Colton Herta won the Long Beach Grand Prix and as Spaniard Alex Palou won the overall NTT IndyCar championship, finishing fourth here. Some hope the race’s return after a nearly year-and-a-half bump due to COVID-19 symbolizes a return to normal for Long Beach as a whole.
At the event, every attendee either had to show proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID test taken within 72 hours. After guests first checked in, they received a wristband that verified one of those two things and it allowed them to walk in and out of race events all weekend without showing proof all over again.

The Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach returns to the city in April 2022, and tickets for that race go on sale in November.

**LA County Board of Supervisors Vote to Extend the County’s COVID-19 Tenant Protections Through January 31, 2022**

On Tuesday, September 28, the Board of Supervisors voted to extend Los Angeles County’s temporary eviction moratorium through January 31, 2022. These protections, which went into effect March 2020 and set to expire on September 30, 2021, provided a set of affirmative defenses against evictions for residential and commercial tenants, as well as mobile home space renters.

The updated policy, now renamed the County’s COVID-19 Tenant Protections Resolution, continues to provide a defense against eviction for residential and commercial tenants, while also expanding the owner move-in provisions. Notably, the updated Resolution expands the owner move-in exception to allow property owners or their qualifying family members to move into up to two units as their principal residence(s) if the single-family home, condominium unit, mobile home space, duplex and/or triplex was purchased by the property owner on or before June 30, 2021, and if certain conditions are met. It also clarifies provisions not preempted by State law, such as residential nonpayment of rent due to COVID-19 financial hardship.

“Unfortunately, the County no longer has the authority to extend non-payment of rent protection to local residential tenants. The motion extends non-payment of rent protections to commercial tenants and extends limited protections to residential tenants as permitted by law. I hope that LA County residents who fell behind on their rent during the pandemic act quickly to apply for the state’s Housing is Key rent relief program in order to secure protection from eviction while the state processes the applications,” said Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, the primary author of the motion.

“Los Angeles County’s temporary tenant emergency protections have served as a safety net for both residential and commercial renters of the same communities that have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. That is why we must continue to provide protections for those who are struggling to pay rent and on the verge of falling into homelessness,” shared Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda L. Solis,
Supervisor to the First District. “I am proud to join my colleague, Supervisor Kuehl, in co-authoring Tuesday’s motion on extending protections for tenants to January 31, 2022. While our temporary emergency protections are for only certain matters where we are not preempted by the State of California, this motion will allow us to provide robust harassment protections to keep our families safe and to give them peace of mind. This pandemic has not affected everyone equally and to that end, I am focused on meeting the needs of our community to stabilize households and mitigate the detrimental effects of disruptive displacements across the County.”

“With the Board’s passage of the motion and the extension of COVID-19 Tenant Protections, we have a clear path forward,” said Rafael Carbajal, Director of the LA County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at a press conference Wednesday. “While some of the State’s eviction protections are slated to expire this week, it’s important to note that there are still resources available to help and rent relief continues to be available to cover up to 100 percent of past-due rent and utilities. Each situation is unique but struggling renters and property owners should reach out to us immediately to determine what protections apply and what resources are available. Call us at 800-593-8222 for more information.”

“LA County renters were struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rents prior to the pandemic and COVID-19 has increased housing instability across the region,” said Jenny Delwood, Executive Vice President of the Liberty Hill Foundation, one of the lead coordinating organizations for Stay Housed L.A. “The Stay Housed L.A. program is here to help tenants understand and exercise their rights. Together, we can prevent homelessness and ensure renters stay housed.”

For more information about the LA County COVID-19 Tenant Protections Resolution, visit dcba.lacounty.gov/noevictions.

For any additional questions about landlord/tenant laws and programs in LA County, visit rent.lacounty.gov.

For more information about the Housing is Key rent relief program, visit housingiskey.com.
The Storefront Reopening and Board-Up Removal Program has been extended until **October 31, 2021**. The SRBR program will assist applicants on a first-come-first-served basis for the removal of plywood boards only. Any applicants that may require additional storefront repairs in addition to plywood removal may require additional review and experience longer application processing times.

The City of Long Beach (City), through its contract with “on-call” property management consultants, will conduct work related to the removal, haul away, and disposal of window/storefront coverings (plywood). Work will be paid for by the City and contracted directly with the property management consultants. The estimated value of each grant is estimated between $100 and $600 (maximum) per location, subject to the size of the storefront. Maximum pieces of plywood to be removed, 30 pieces.

For more information, please visit the program’s [website](#).

**Industry Links**

**LA County commercial landlords can’t evict tenants just yet**

**Brandywine Homes plans 84-unit townhome complex in North Long Beach**

For more information, please Mary Frances Torres, SR/WA, Acting Real Estate Bureau Manager, Economic Development Department, at mary.torres@longbeach.gov.