

LONG BEACH HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE MEETING SUMMARY

Community Forum #2

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Zoom Webinar from 6:00pm-7:30pm

Attended by approximately **28 members of the public**, the second Community Forum focused on presenting background information relevant to the Housing Element update and the housing crisis in Long Beach and received feedback on the Housing Element Goals.

Overview

A formal presentation led by the Long Beach Development Services Team was followed by opportunities for the public to provide questions and comments through the webinar Q&A and chat functions. Additionally, poll questions were implemented throughout the presentation to engage with participants and receive input on the proposed goals for the Housing Element.

During the presentation, participants were encouraged to use the Q&A and chat functions to provide feedback on the content presented and as a guide for discussion topics. During the presentation written questions and comments were directly responded to via the Q&A and chat functions. Upon completion of the presentation, written questions were responded to verbally by project team members and participants were able to ask questions and provide comments verbally as well. The polls were primarily used to gain background information on attendees and help facilitate discussions about the goals of the Housing Element.

Notifications of the Community Forum and other meetings were distributed electronically via LinkLB, the City's email notification system, to over **3,000 email addresses** for people who have signed up for notifications for latest news or initiatives and programs from Development Services, or for notifications related to general plan updates. The events were also promoted through a memo to the Mayor and City Council, and through social media via Facebook events hosted and promoted by both the City and Development Services Department's Facebook accounts. Brochures were mailed to over **25,300 addresses** in areas identified as having high housing need and high risk related to COVID10. The mailers shared information on the Housing Element update, outreach meetings and resources for individuals affected by COVID-19 in all four City languages of English, Spanish, Tagalog and Khmer.

The questions and feedback received during the workshop are categorized below:

- 1) Q&A Input
- 2) Chat Input
- 3) Poll Results

Eighty (80) questions and comments were received during the digital workshop through the Q&A and Chat features. The pages below illustrate the themes and input captured.

01

Q&A Input

(33 Questions/Comments)

- Questions about the long term impacts of COVID-19 in terms of potential rezoning of commercial spaces.
- Several attendees raised questions and comments about the ratio of rental properties to owned properties and whether or not there is legislation aiming to increase the percentage of homeowners.
- Many comments and questions were raised regarding what defines micro-units, their requirements, and dimensions.
- Questions regarding the definition of publicly assisted units and whether or not money from the CARES Act is being directed towards housing in Long Beach.
- Comments suggesting community Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to assist with home ownership and the housing supply in general.
- Questions regarding dimension requirements for units as per the California Building Codes.
- Comments and questions were raised in favor of providing more affordable units for sale to increase the number of homeowners in Long Beach by building more housing and increasing homeownership opportunities, such as rent/own balances.

02

Chat Input

(47 Comments/Questions)

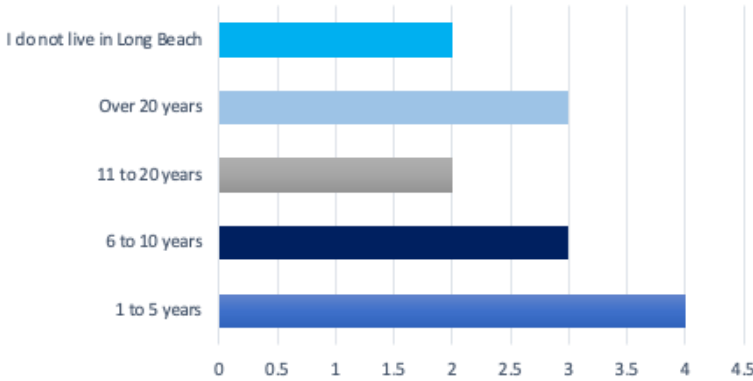
- Concerns about an influx of evictions once the COVID moratoriums expire, especially for people of color, and the need for the right to counsel as a result.
- Suggestions that Goal 1, provide housing assistance and preserve publicly assisted units, should prioritize extremely low income groups first.
- Several comments regarding the need for local revenue to build affordable and supportive housing as well as community owned units.
- Some residents suggested Community Land Trusts and other cooperative ownership models in addition to tenant protections for permanent affordable, community-owned units.
- Suggestion to use a bond measure as a local source of revenue for affordable and supportive housing.
- Several residents suggested to convert excess commercial spaces and unused parking lots into affordable residential units.
- Several general outreach suggestions to have other answers for the polls besides Yes/No.

- Comments suggesting that redlining maps and race-based deed restrictions in Long Beach should be produced to illustrate the effects on systemic racism on the Long Beach community, especially in terms of rent burden, zoning, etc.
- Several comments supporting the increased production of condominium buildings.
- Several residents stated that there needs to be more homeownership opportunities in Long Beach as a result of renter stabilization and additional job opportunities.
- Questions about the definition of a “publicly assisted unit”.
- One resident voiced the need for additional programs like the Century Village at Cabrillo.
- Residents suggested several ordinances to protect and preserve affordable housing.
- Some residents suggested all Long Beach residents have a right to counsel.
- Several suggestions for the City of Long Beach to create a rental housing division.

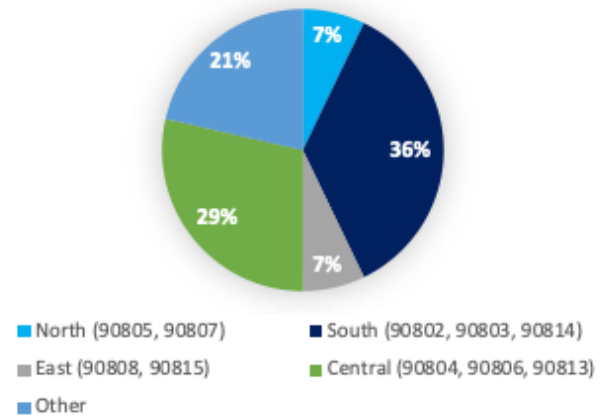
03

Poll Results

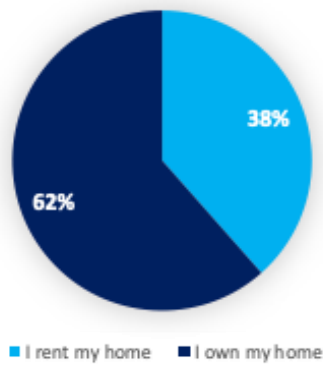
Poll #1: How long have you lived in the City?



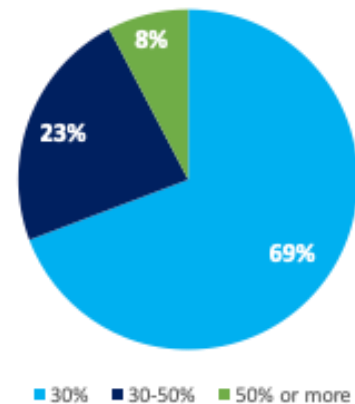
Poll #2: Which Long Beach ZIP Code do you currently live in?



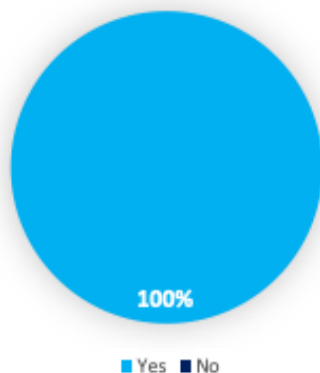
Poll #3: Do you rent or do you own your home?



Poll #4: How much of your monthly income goes to housing?



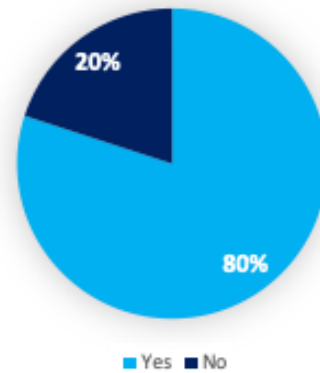
Do you agree with Goal 1: Provide Housing Assistance and Preserve Publicly Assisted Units?



Do you agree with Goal 2: Address the Unique Housing Needs of Special Residents?



Do you agree with Goal 3: Retain and Improve the Quality of Existing Housing and Neighborhoods?



Do you agree with Goal 4: Provide Increased Opportunities for the Construction of High Quality Housing?



Do you agree with Goal 5: Mitigate Government Constraints to Housing Investment and Affordability?



Do you agree with Goal 6: Provide Increased Opportunities for Home Ownership?

