



CALIFORNIA BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

A RENAISSANCE 21ST CENTURY PROJECT



October 26, 2017

Dear Councilmember's,

The California Black Chamber of Commerce is proud to support Build With Strength Los Angeles, a coalition of community groups, labor unions, and small businesses encouraging the Los Angeles City Council and other elected officials to enact safer and cost effective guidelines for low-rise building developments.

The California Black Chamber of Commerce is the largest African American non-profit business organization representing hundreds of small and emerging businesses, affiliates and chambers of commerce throughout the state, with a strong presence in Southern California. We are strong advocates for smart business growth and development while pursuing policies that strengthen communities.

Affordable housing is a top priority in California, as well as a central issue for vulnerable communities. New regulations, such as those suggested by the Build with Strength campaign, help protect these diverse communities living and working throughout Los Angeles by providing safe, practical guidelines.

Safer building standards impact all communities, yet its most often low and moderate-income residents, and small and medium-sized businesses occupying these mixed-use low-rise developments. The safety measures of the Build with Strength effort do not only apply to residents, but also impact workers involved in the development, management and emergency response programs. Requiring the safest and most reliable processes in the construction of multi-family housing is essential for the security, health, and economic future of our city.

The housing crisis facing Los Angeles is exacerbated by a projected population boom. This is a challenge for local policymakers, but it is also an opportunity to model socially and environmentally-conscious development. We hope that new developments will meet or exceed existing building codes, and especially that the City of Los Angeles will encourage the use of non-combustible materials. Fires and earthquakes are a major risk, and only compounded by the city's density, emphasizing the need to focus on safety for the future.



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We urge Councilmember Blumenfield and his fellow council members to support the Build with Strength campaign to improve building and fire safety regulations in Los Angeles. Sustainable development is as much about people as it is about infrastructure, and the City Council has a chance to invest in true sustainable development by ensuring safe, affordable places to live and work.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aubry L. Stone".

Aubry L. Stone
CBCC President/CEO
USBC Board Chair
Co-Chair, State Dept. General Services Small Business Advisory Council