

## ***HOPE - Helping Others Prosper Economically***

### **Local Non-Profit HOPE Announces Support for Los Angeles Fire Safety Ordinance**

*Organization's Co-Founder Rabbi Jonathan Klein says measure is critical to city*

**Los Angeles, CA** (June 25, 2019)—A recently introduced ordinance in Los Angeles is garnering a large array of support from community leaders for its proactive approach to fire safety and lax building codes. The measure, titled “Building a Safer Los Angeles,” was introduced by Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield and Monica Rodriguez.

Rabbi Jonathan Klein, a community leader representing Helping Others Prosper Economically (HOPE), vocalized his support for the measure. “We’ve seen the Los Angeles wildfire problem grow and become increasingly out of hand—we simply cannot afford to wait to take action. Councilmembers Blumenfield and Rodriguez have taken a great first step toward bolstering the safety of our community.”

Helping Others Prosper Economically (HOPE) is a member of Build with Strength, a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, which consists of community organizations, fire safety professionals, engineers, architects, and industry experts committed to strengthening the nation’s building codes and ensuring greater access to secure housing.

Blumenfield and Rodriguez’s ordinance is a twofold plan—banning the use of combustible materials in new construction and expanding Fire District 1. According to the motion, “it is time to revisit this tool and expand its reach to ensure that it captures the changing and growing regional centers and neighborhoods within the City of Los Angeles.”

The measure was informed by a recent study authored by Columbia University Adjunct Professor Urvashi Kaul. The study found that the city of Los Angeles is at risk of losing \$22.6 billion to residential fires if the use of combustible materials and building codes remain unaddressed.

Rabbi Klein reiterated his support for the measure. “I can’t overstate how important this measure is. ‘Building a Safer Los Angeles’ is going to do wonders to ensure that the city’s residents feel much safer in their homes, their places of work and worship. This ordinance also provides growth and economic opportunity for residents and workers of our city- it’s a win-win for everybody.”

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