



August 3, 2023

United to House LA Citizens Oversight Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Cc: Jenna Hornstock, Deputy Mayor of Housing, Office of Mayor Karen Bass
Cc: Ann Sewill, General Manager, LA Housing Department
Cc: Greg Good, Senior Advisor, LA Housing Department

RE: Comments from the United to House LA Coalition for the August 3rd Meeting of the Citizens Oversight Committee

Dear Members of the United to House LA Citizens Oversight Committee:

The United to House LA Coalition (the Coalition) would like to recognize this body for the work it has already done so far this year. A package of interim program guidelines and an expenditure plan is now before Council after Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) approval last month. We appreciate that the COC has been responsive to the perspectives of the community throughout the process and want to convey our thanks for your letter to the City Council requesting that the \$150 million allocated to Measure ULA's programs be front-funded. The Coalition will remain engaged on this issue as it moves through Council in the upcoming weeks, making every effort to ensure that the City continues moving Measure ULA implementation forward.

With the initial expenditure plan and interim program guidelines passed, we now look forward to the COC's work on other important issues in this next series of meetings. We look forward to the COC having the time to set up its infrastructure and settle more fully into the important roles each of you have taken on. To this end, The Coalition respectfully submits the following thoughts for your consideration.

1. Memo on the Roles and Responsibilities of the COC

The Coalition is heartened to see a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of the COC agendaized for the August 3rd meeting. As drafters of Measure ULA, we took care to consider how to establish an oversight body that would have the resources and abilities to ensure the full implementation of the revenues generated for the programs outlined in the initiative. This is a pivotal moment for the COC to set up infrastructure and clarify its roles and responsibilities. There are many important decisions you will continue to make and we encourage each member to understand the authorities and responsibilities granted to you. Taking the time now to learn how to do both the big and small actions you're tasked with - from introducing motions and

amendments to spending administrative funds - will ensure the COC can move the work forward as effectively as possible. The Coalition continues to offer itself as a resource throughout the process and we wanted to offer perspective and a resource to help you in these next phases.

To that end, we are providing the attached memo written by Public Counsel that summarizes the Measure's descriptions of the COC duties and adds additional perspective on how you can exercise your roles as you conduct the Committee's business. We hope that the Committee is able to use this memo in this meeting's discussion and to inform your work as you set up infrastructure and make your next set of decisions together. As the COC begins to engage in topics such as hiring staff and the creation of Measure ULA's long-term program guidelines, we believe that clarity around this topic will help provide Committee members the confidence to engage in this work fully as you shape implementation of Measure ULA.

2. Establishing the Tenant Council

When the expenditure plan before City Council is approved, over \$88 million will be allocated for ULA's homelessness prevention programs, including protections from tenant harassment, tenant outreach & education, eviction defense, short-term rental assistance, and income support for rent-burdened seniors/persons with disabilities. A necessary next step should be the creation of the Tenant Council required under Measure ULA to provide additional expertise to reviewing and recommending improvements for tenant-facing programs and related issues. .

The Tenant Council will be an oversight body made up of tenants or unhoused individuals living in the City of Los Angeles and will provide crucial lived expertise on matters affecting tenants. Measure ULA requires that the Council be established in a way that is consistent with the appointments to the COC. **Because this selection process will take time, we ask that the COC help to urgently advance the creation of the Tenant Council. We ask that during the August 3rd meeting, the COC request a report back from the Housing Department on a plan for and the status of the establishment of the Tenant Council.**

3. Hiring Interim Staff

The Coalition applauds the committee for agendaizing the establishment of an ad-hoc committee on staffing. Hiring staff - most importantly an interim Inspector General - is a crucial next step for the success of the COC, and must be advanced immediately so the COC can have full capacity to complete the charges put before you.

Overall, the Coalition believes that proper staffing which works directly for the COC is not only required by the statute but will also be essential to have before the Committee begins establishing long-term guidelines. These and other processes will take significant capacity to complete and Angelenos have high expectations for what ULA will produce.

4. Long-Term Planning: Program Guidelines

With a COC staffing plan in place, we strongly recommend the Committee quickly begin among its most important tasks: the establishment of long-term program guidelines for Measure ULA's expenditures. This will be time-intensive work that will heavily influence the success of Measure

ULA's programs for some time. You need adequate space and time for reviewing and understanding each program area's needs and so we recommend utilizing having adequate staff and consultants in place for the preparation of materials. We also suggest establishing a calendar of meetings that allows for each set of program guidelines to appear on at least two COC agendas with sufficient discussion. Whenever possible, members of the COC should consult with experts from each spending area. As you know, the Coalition has already drafted proposed guidelines with the help of over 100 organizations, which can be reviewed [here](#)¹. We continue to make ourselves available to further support the development of guidelines.

We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the COC and look forward to carrying out the next steps recommended here. Thank you for all of the work you are doing to implement what is sure to be one of the most impactful programs our city has ever seen.

Sincerely,

The Steering Committee of the United to House LA Coalition



¹ <https://unitedtohousela.com/app/uploads/2023/05/ULA-Coalition-Program-Guidelines.pdf>