



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

September 13, 2023

The Honorable Alex Lee
California State Assembly, 24
1021 O Street, Room, 6330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 309 (Lee) The Social Housing Act
City of Beverly Hills – Support if Amended

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you with a position of **SUPPORT IF AMENDED on AB 309 (Lee)**, otherwise known as the Social Housing Act. We recognize the urgent need to address the housing crisis that affects not only our community but the entire state of California. We commend the efforts behind AB 309 to create the Social Housing Program within the Department of General Services (DGS), a promising approach to delivering much-needed housing.

The City of Beverly Hills strongly supports the intent of AB 309, which is to produce more housing as housing affordability and homelessness are among the most critical issues facing not only our City but all cities throughout California. Affordably priced homes are out of reach for many people and housing is not being built fast enough to meet the current or projected needs of people living in the state.

However, we would like to register our concerns regarding the provision in the bill that would prohibit local jurisdictions from denying a proposed development. Local governments have an intimate understanding of the needs, desires, and unique circumstances of their communities. We believe that maintaining the ability of local jurisdictions to provide input and guidance on housing projects, including social housing, is essential to ensuring that developments are in harmony with the needs and character of our local communities.

We appreciate the provisions which allow local agencies to propose modifications to mitigate specific adverse impacts on public health or safety. However, the previous mentioned language which denies a local authority the ability to prohibit a development goes too far and should be revised to maintain a collaborative relationship between the state and local governments. It is for these reasons that the City of Beverly Hills has updated its position to **SUPPORT IF AMENDED on AB 309 (Lee)**.

Sincerely,

Julian A. Gold, M.D.
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 24th District
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51st District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange