

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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February XX, 2024

**RE: Community Impact Statement on CF 15-1207-S1/S2: Los Angeles Convention
Expansion Project**

To Whom It May Concern:

At our regularly held public meeting on February XX, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) voted to provide the following comments below:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council submits this Community Impact Statement **in support if amended** of CF 15-1207-S1/S2: Los Angeles Convention Expansion Project

The Los Angeles Convention Center is one of the most critical economic engines supporting Los Angeles’ tourism and trade economy. The current state of the Convention Center, as documented in countless reports and studies, has had major ramifications on our City’s economy due to the loss of event bookings because of the size and state of the facility. The impacts extend beyond the Convention Center and into our hotels, restaurants and nightlife, neighborhood small businesses, workers and union laborers, and wholesaler suppliers that lose out on revenue, jobs, and traffic due to the loss of events at the Center. The impacts even go as far as our City’s General Fund and revenue streams due to the reduction of funds such as the Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT).

The need to modernize the Convention Center to be a Tier 1 facility to support the City’s economy and jobs is undeniable. Like any infrastructure project, such as Airports, Mass Transit, and parks, the benefits of investment almost always outweigh the cost. The Convention Center’s impact alone as an amenity to Downtown Los Angeles and neighboring communities is critical to supporting the micro-economies that are still recovering from the impacts of COVID-19. The improvement of the expansion of the Convention Center, such as the upgrades

to Gilbert Lindsey Plaza, enhanced pedestrian lighting, and connectivity to the community of Pico-Union to Downtown LA will be immense and otherwise not achievable if modernization did not occur.

Given the benefits of upgrades and improvements to the Convention Center, DLANC recognizes that the impact and risk to the City and the General Fund will be significant, no matter the delivery approach. As such, any delivery method should minimize the impacts to our already stretched City budget and risk while ensuring the work can be accelerated and delivered on time. However, the City should heavily consider studying the viability of a **P3 delivery model** given the associated challenges and time constraints with a city-delivered project.

Secondly, DLANC shares the concerns raised by the Council regarding the potential ramifications and significant risks associated with proceeding with modernization before the Olympics. DLANC concurs that if delays were to occur during construction, the loss or relocation of the venue would have an adverse impact on Downtown and the City as a whole. Should the City proceed with delivering this project before the LA28 games, **DLANC recommends that the project be phased** so that any work is directed towards the actual expansion of the Convention Halls themselves, any relevant MEP, Fire/Life Safety, and ADA upgrades to keep the facility operational during the games, and public/open space at the street level be done first, versus other building upgrades/modifications such as that over Pico Boulevard.

*** SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY DLANC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON FEBRUARY XX, 2024 ***

Sincerely,

Claudia Oliveira
President,
DLANC

Debby Zhou
Chair,
DLANC Livability Committee

Cc: Trade, Travel, And Tourism Committee, City Council (via email)
City Tourism Department (via email)
City Tourism Commission (via email)
City Administrative Officer (via email)
Chief Legislative Analyst (via email)
Council District 9 (via email)
South Park Business Improvement District (via email)