



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lester J. Friedman, Mayor

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Alex Lee
California State Assembly, District
State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 387 (Lee) Social Housing Act of 2021
City of Beverly Hills – Support

Dear Assemblymember Lee,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of your AB 387, which would establish, in the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, the California Social Housing Council to develop policy proposals that would promote the development of social housing in California.

According to a 2015 California Housing Budget and Policy Center study, more than four in 10 households faced unaffordable housing costs, meaning they pay more than 30 percent of their income on rent or mortgage. More than one in five households statewide spend more than half of their income on housing expenses. Additionally, California has now been experiencing an extended and increasing housing shortage for nearly 50 years. In 2018, California ranked 49th among the United States in new housing units per resident.

Social housing refers to various forms of rental and ownership housing provided outside of the for-profit market and availability to working people of all incomes. In Vienna and Singapore, 62 percent and 87 percent of its citizens, respectively reside in public social housing. The mortgages offered by Singapore's Housing and Development Board have low monthly payments that are significantly lower than private rents. This has resulted in a homeownership rate of 91 percent despite severe land constraints. It has also benefited numerous households with a range of incomes from low-to-upper-middle-income.

AB 387 will introduce social housing to California by establishing a California Social Housing Council within the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. This bill would require the Council to develop and report policy proposals that promote the development of social housing to the Legislature by January 1, 2024.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills SUPPORTS your AB 387. Thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester J. Friedman", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lester J. Friedman
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange