City Council Adopts West Adams Community Plan Update

After Decades of Neglect, a Blueprint for New Investment in South Los Angeles Was Approved Today by LA City Council

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LOS ANGELES, CA — In part of what used to be known as South Central Los Angeles that hasn’t seen significant investment since the civil unrest of 1992, the City Council of Los Angeles today adopted an updated Community Plan for West Adams/Baldwin Hills/Leimert Park. The action was a formality that followed the Plan’s approval yesterday by the City of Los Angeles’ Planning and Land Use Management committee (PLUM).

The Community Plan provides a blueprint for development in designated areas that determines the resources, amenities, and look of a community for the next 20 years. It is part of the city’s update process of about 35 community plan areas. This West Adams community plan area is one of three that comprise the South LA geography. South Los Angeles was a priority because of its years of neglect making it one of the most under-resourced communities in Los Angeles.

Community Health Councils (CHC), together with its network of coalitions working in concert with the City Planning Department, has been instrumental in engaging community residents in the public process to develop design standards incorporated into the plan. For example, Marilyn Lawrence a CHC coalition member and resident of the area had this to say about the Plan, “*My husband and I support a plan that allows people to stay in their communities, at prices they can afford.*” Over the years in

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which this plan was being developed, other residents contributed comments via letters, testimony, and videos. Built Environment Policy Director, Gwendolyn Flynn stated, “It has taken 10 years, but finally we have a plan that is largely responsive to our community needs and vision for well-being.” These design standards cover everything from stand-alone fast food restaurant density to protection of the environment/open space, and supports active transportation—biking, walking, and use of public transit. These policies will make it easier for community residents to make health supporting lifestyle decisions as access and quality of community resources improve and/or become more available. This is an important milestone, offers Community Health Council’s Chief Executive Officer, Veronica Flores.

CHC and its network of collaborators will remain vigilant to monitor enforcement of the Plan policies and goals. Development and adoption of the South and Southeast New Community Plans are the next focus for South Los Angeles residents.

For more information about CHC’s community resident engagement in the community plan public process connect to the link that follows: [http://chc-inc.org/-1-9](http://chc-inc.org/-1-9)

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*Community Health Councils (CHC)* is a non-profit, community-based health education and policy organization. Established in 1992, our mission is to promote social justice and achieve health equity in community and environmental resources for underserved populations.

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