



PRESS RELEASE



[Haga clic para ver español](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 3, 2020
planning.media@lacity.org
(213) 978-1248

Los Angeles Proposes a New Affordable Housing Plan for the Neighborhood of Boyle Heights

LOS ANGELES—Today, City Planning unveiled a proposed plan that would expand housing opportunities in Boyle Heights as well as safeguard existing rental units. The plan seeks to protect the current availability of housing, improve access to local amenities, and preserve the cultural legacy of Boyle Heights through new land use measures.

The plan's proposed policies address many long-standing issues related to equity and access, balancing the preservation of existing households with the need to provide new housing opportunities. In keeping with that goal, the Department has developed stronger development standards to minimize the pressures of displacement.

Specifically, the plan prioritizes the construction of housing along commercial corridors, incentivizing units for a range of income levels—including units reserved exclusively for Extremely Low Income households (those earning \$31,300 or less, for a family of four). By focusing future development potential near transit and away from existing residential neighborhoods, the plan incorporates community-focused strategies aimed at keeping families together and in their current housing. For decades, Boyle Heights has maintained its legacy as a community rooted in families. With a median household income of \$36,000 a year, nearly 75 percent of its residents today are renters, with a growing youth population poised to create even more demand for affordable housing.

"Boyle Heights today is about 93 percent Mexican, Central American, and Latin American families, and has long been a place where hard-working families and small businesses from other various ethnic and immigrant backgrounds put down roots. It is also recognized as a key birthplace of Chicana/o activism and civil rights and we honor that legacy," said Director of Planning Vince Bertoni. "Our plan puts housing and families first, so that we can preserve the neighborhood's sense of hope and promise for future generations to come."

In addition to bolstering affordable housing, the proposed plan strengthens local business and job growth potential along major corridors such as 1st Street and Whittier Boulevard. Through the use of zoning, the plan applies new regulations limiting the size of commercial spaces to



support mom-and-pop style businesses rather than big-box stores and chains. The new zoning standards will also help promote corner shops, or “tienditas,” that provide fresh groceries and household goods within walkable distance of the surrounding residential neighborhood.

Later this year, City Planning will organize a workshop and public hearing to solicit additional input and community feedback on the [Boyle Heights Community Plan Update](#), prior to advancing the final plan to the City Planning Commission and the City Council.

###