

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-1968, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR ACTIONS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN LOCAL DEMOCRACY, AUTHORITY, AND CONTROL AS RELATED TO LOCAL ZONING AND HOUSING ISSUES WITH CALIFORNIA CITIES FOR LOCAL CONTROL GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION

The Mayor and members of the City Council have received a request from Torrance City Councilmember Mike Griffiths, and others from the California Cities FOR Local Control Citizens Grassroots Group (Group) to consider a resolution of support.

City staff has reviewed the background of this Group, and would describe it as a grassroots coalition that is relatively limited in scope, resources, or abilities. Their mission statement is presented as follows:

“Our mission is to spread awareness and enlist support to ensure that Cities can continue to manage their own land use and zoning issues, and not allow the State Legislature to mandate changes to our Cities that will remove local control and be detrimental to our communities.”

The Group is reaching out to cities and elected officials to educate and request that they support the cause of the Group in signing petitions, requesting the passage of resolutions, and seek allies for possible legal action against the State, or promote efforts for ballot initiatives. There are approximately 45 cities that have approved some form of the proposed resolution.

The concept of grassroots groups is not new and from time to time arises in response to issues important to the group and tend to fade as the specific issues or sponsor(s) change. This Group originated out of the legislature sessions over the past two years, and the mandates on local agencies that have resulted, particularly, with respect to housing and housing related legislation. The impacts to Agoura Hills have yet to be fully realized as the implementation of this legislation has just begun, but is expected to affect how the community grows over the upcoming years. Some of the frustration felt by local agencies has been the one-size fits all methodology and thus reduces the City's ability to self-determine through development policies and regulations at the local level.

Although the City Council has previously approved a legislative platform that provides a framework for legislative priorities and serves as a reference guide for legislative positions and objectives, the City Council may consider support of this Group, which is consistent with several sections related to housing and State mandates.

From staff's research, there is no financial commitment and the proposed resolution does not prevent the City from considering a different stance than this Group in the future. If the City Council so desires, a symbolic resolution is attached for consideration that highlights the need for retaining local control, and supports the ideas of local democracy, authority and control for local zoning and housing issues, as well as other important priorities.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council discuss and consider approving Resolution 21-1968, expressing support for actions to further strengthen local democracy, authority, and control as related to local zoning and housing issues with California Cities FOR Local Control grassroots organization.

Attachment: Resolution 21-1968

RESOLUTION NO. 21-1968

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR ACTIONS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN LOCAL DEMOCRACY, AUTHORITY, AND CONTROL AS RELATED TO LOCAL ZONING AND HOUSING ISSUES

WHEREAS, the legislature of the State of California each year proposes, passes, and has signed into law a number of bills addressing a range of housing issues; and

WHEREAS, the legislature State of California actions do not have sufficient time in between passage with the ability to determine the success in bringing about change related to the State of California's housing issues; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these bills usurp the authority of local jurisdictions to determine for themselves the land use policies and practices that best suit each City or jurisdiction and its residents and instead impose mandates that do not consider the needs and differences of jurisdictions throughout the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the ability of local jurisdictions to determine for themselves which projects require review beyond a ministerial approval; what parking requirements are appropriate for various neighborhoods within their jurisdiction; what plans and programs are suitable and practical for each community, rather than having these decisions imposed upon cities without regard to the circumstances of each individual City; and what zoning should be allowed for residential properties is a matter of great importance to the City of Agoura Hills among other items related to local zoning and housing issues; and

WHEREAS, the current COVID-19 pandemic has had major impacts on the City's ability to work towards and meet the rapidly approaching deadlines for compliance with bills recently passed by the State legislature; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Agoura Hills feels strongly that our local government is best able to assess the needs of our community and objects to the proliferation of State legislation that deprives us of that ability;

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS HEREBY FINDS, RESOLVES, AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Agoura Hills is opposed to the current practice of legislature of the State of California of proposing and passing multitudes of bills that directly impact and interfere with the ability of cities to control their own destiny through the use of zoning authority that has been granted to them.

SECTION 2. The City of Agoura Hills will explore various ways to protect the ability of the towns and cities to retain local control over zoning as each individual town or city

within the State of California is best suited to determine how the zoning in their town should be allocated in order to meet the housing needs of the community.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution and enter into the record this resolution in accordance with the City's policies.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 24th day of February, 2021, by the following vote to wit:

AYES: (
NOES: (
ABSENT: (
ABSTAIN: (
)

Denis Weber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly M. Rodrigues, City Clerk