THE HOUSING CRISIS IN LOS ANGELES

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING PRECARITY



STRUCTURAL AND REGULATORY ISSUES

While the crisis may seem daunting and intractable, it is important to understand the problem is a result of public policy, enforcement decisions, and the allocation of public resources. Stronger policy, enforcement decisions, and more significant and targeted allocation of public resources will be key to addressing the issue.

What are generally obfuscated under the term "market forces" are at least three factors that can be shaped by the policy decisions made by elected representatives.



Between 2014 and 2020, 105,522 units of "above moderate income" housing were built in the City of LA but only 11,566 of "moderate income" or below housing units were built.



Currently Rent Stabilization Ordinances (Rent Control) and the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance are severely underenforced.



Control of the rental market has increasingly concentrated in the hands of large owners and ownership groups – corporations, trusts, and investment funds.

Public policy set by the LA City Council and County Supervisors can significantly shape each of these factors if moved to do so by a broad coalition united in the housing justice movement: United to House LA.

UNITED TO HOUSE LA

In November 2022, a coalition of labor unions and community organizations were successful in getting Measure ULA passed by Los Angeles voters. UTLA contributed \$150,000 to this effort and now serves as part of the UHLA Steering Committee.

Measure ULA established a tax on the sale of real estate above \$5 million that is estimated to generate between \$600 million and \$1.1 billion annually. The funds are to be allocated as follows:



UTLA'S HISTORIC HOUSING MOU WITH LAUSD

As part of our Beyond Recovery Contract Campaign UTLA members won an agreement in contract negotiations that requires LAUSD to contribute to addressing the housing crisis in LA.

LAUSD owns at least 421 vacant properties, 149 of which are already zoned residential.

The UTLA - LAUSD Housing Support MOU requires:

- a joint UTLA-LAUSD task force regarding the conversion of unused district property to affordable housing for LAUSD students and families
- school space for non-profits to provide tenant rights clinics and housing assistance
- joint advocacy for Section 8 vouchers and tenant protection

There is opportunity for the UTLA -LAUSD Housing Support MOU to help achieve the goals of Measure ULA, and vice – versa.

We forced LAUSD into a commitment on housing through a collective struggle and it will take more struggle to get them to implement the MOU in the most impactful way possible. There will be a struggle over how many vacant properties to convert, what the time line is, where they are located, and who will be the final owner.

That struggle will likely require UTLA members working with parents and community members to pressure LAUSD. We will want to engage parents in discussions to understand their needs and work with tenant rights organizations to take advantage of the access provided in the agreement to help meet those needs.

This MOU represents the first steps for UTLA members join the fight for housing justice.