

# Mayor's Housing Vision for LA

## The City

*Mayor Villaraigosa outlined his housing vision and strategy for Los Angeles in a speech at the LA Business Council's Annual Housing Summit. Here's a summary of that speech as provided by the Mayor's media office.*



Declaring that Los Angeles must develop a smart growth plan to address an acute housing shortage in the face of anticipated population growth, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa previewed the City's five-year housing strategy during the keynote address of the Los Angeles Business Council's Annual Mayoral Housing Summit at UCLA.

Calling on civic leaders and developers to make LA a "City of Boulevards," Mayor Villaraigosa outlined a plan to link neighborhoods and businesses with a quality public transportation system; build new housing developments along major transit corridors; and create 20 new community plans that offer residents more affordable housing close to their jobs.

"I believe it is time to have a grown-up conversation about the gravity of the affordable housing crisis in Los Angeles," Villaraigosa said. "It is crucial that our City adopt a smart housing policy to accommodate future population growth."

Villaraigosa's plan calls for a streamlined planning process to encourage development along transit corridors and revitalize the City's wide boulevards. In addition, it sets a goal of building 10,000 new affordable housing units by 2012, proposes the creation of an inclusionary zoning ordinance and emphasizes the need to build workforce housing for teachers.

Mayor Villaraigosa's strategy includes a series of initiatives designed to increase access to affordable housing and reduce homelessness throughout the City. The Mayor pledged to implement a "fair share policy," committing developers and local leaders to distribute low-income housing equitably to LA's workers. He will launch a Teacher Housing Initiative to spur the development of housing teachers can afford and create a Task Force on Workforce Housing to encourage the expansion of employer-sponsored housing.

Working with the Community Redevelopment Agency, Villaraigosa initiated a nine month planning process to develop a ten-year action plan for the Skid Row area and create a comprehensive housing and land-use policy for the downtown neighborhood.

"It is not a question of whether to build, it is a question of where to build," Villaraigosa said. "Our strategy must focus on the creation of housing for the middle class and working class - as well our low-income and homeless residents - all across the City."



Delivering on his promise to fully fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund at \$100 million for a third year in a row, the Mayor announced the creation of a \$30 million "City of Los Angeles Supportive Housing Loan Fund." This effort, developed in partnership with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, will provide loans to developers of future supportive housing projects and increase access to the critical services that help prevent and end homelessness.

Villaraigosa also kicked off a partnership with the Enterprise Foundation and a number of other organizations and banks to launch a predevelopment and acquisition fund for affordable housing with the goal of raising \$200 million.

"Addressing our shared responsibility to decrease homelessness and increase housing will require partnerships with

both communities and philanthropic entities, as well as increased support from state and federal government,” Villaraigosa added.

Another element of the Mayor’s strategy consists of an effort to boost transit-oriented development by completing ten station area plans, encouraging developers to add new buildings near public transportation hubs and requiring future community plans to contain transit-based land-use plans with supporting capital investment proposals.