

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

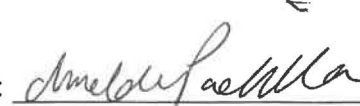
Abandoned structures in the City can pose significant fire risk, in addition to being a general nuisance. These structures are often not maintained, and contain significant fuel for potentially destructive fires which could spread to adjacent properties or into vegetation. The Fire Department (LAFD) has the capability to demolish these buildings, but only does so after a fire has occurred at a site.

In an effort to reduce fire risks and address the dangers posed by these abandoned structures, the City should look at establishing a program to enable the LAFD to demolish high-risk abandoned structures. The LAFD could work with council offices and other stakeholders to identify these properties, and demolish them before they are the site of a major emergency. Further, this program could be paid for by a fee charged to the owner of the abandoned structures, thereby ensuring that this program does not rely on the General Fund.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department, with the assistance of the Department of Building and Safety, the City Administrative Officer, and the City Attorney, report on the feasibility of establishing a program to authorize the Fire Department to proactively demolish abandoned structures that pose a significant fire risk prior to the occurrence of a fire, including necessary due process protocols such as owner notification and a final opportunity to abate.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report evaluate the effectiveness of the current LADBS abatement process and identify any limitations that delay or prevent timely mitigation of hazardous structures, including whether LAFD involvement would accelerate removal efforts or a joint task force would accelerate removal efforts.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report recommend objective criteria for defining “high-risk” abandoned structures (such as proximity to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ)) and identify legally enforceable cost-recovery mechanisms, including nuisance abatement liens or special assessments added to the property tax roll, to ensure demolition costs are recovered without reliance on the General Fund.

PRESENTED BY: 

IMELDA PADILLA

Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

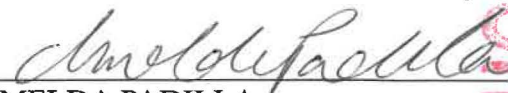

MAR 13 2026

MOTION

I MOVE that the matter of the Public Safety and Planning and Land Use Management Committees' Report relative to establishing a program to authorize the Fire Department to proactively demolish abandoned structures that pose a significant fire risk, Item No. 30 on today's Council agenda (C.F. 26-0386), BE AMENDED to INCLUDE the following recommendation in addition to the recommendations contained in the report:

4. Instruct the Fire Department, in consultation with the Department of City Planning's Office of Historic Resources to provide the Office of Historic Resources with a 14-day review period prior to the demolition of any structure identified in HistoricPlacesLA, the City's inventory of historic resources, as either a designated or potential historic resource to allow for review of preservation considerations, to the extent feasible and consistent with public health and safety requirements.

PRESENTED BY:


IMELDA PADILLA

Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL



August 4, 2026

PUBLIC SAFETY and PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' REPORT relative to establishing a program to authorize the Fire Department to proactively demolish abandoned structures that pose a significant fire risk.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Padilla – Lee):

1. INSTRUCT the Fire Department, with the assistance of the Department of Building and Safety, the City Administrative Officer, and the City Attorney, to report on the feasibility of establishing a program to authorize the Fire Department to proactively demolish abandoned structures that pose a significant fire risk prior to the occurrence of a fire, including necessary due process protocols such as owner notification and a final opportunity to abate.
2. INSTRUCT the Fire Department to report on the effectiveness of the current Department of Building and Safety abatement process and identify any limitations that delay or prevent timely mitigation of hazardous structures, including whether Fire Department involvement or a joint task force would accelerate removal efforts.
3. INSTRUCT the Fire Department to report with recommendations on objective criteria for defining “high-risk” abandoned structures (such as proximity to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones), and to identify legally enforceable cost-recovery mechanisms, including nuisance abatement liens or special assessments added to the property tax roll, to ensure demolition costs are recovered without reliance on the General Fund.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:

Westside Neighborhood Council

Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

SUMMARY

At the regular meeting held on April 22, 2026, the Public Safety Committee considered a Motion (Padilla – Lee) relative to establishing a program to authorize the Fire Department to proactively demolish abandoned structures that pose a significant fire risk.

After an opportunity for public comment was held, the Committee moved to approve the recommendations contained in the Motion, as detailed above.

Subsequently on June 23, 2026, the Planning and Land Use Management Committee considered the same item and, after an opportunity for public comment was held, moved to concur with the action previously taken by the Public Safety Committee.

This matter is now forwarded to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>Member</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
LEE:	YES
PRICE:	YES
McOSKER:	ABSENT
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	YES
PARK:	ABSENT

PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
BLUMENFIELD:	YES
HUTT:	YES
NAZARIAN:	YES
LEE:	YES
RAMAN:	YES

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-

Office of the City Clerk, City of Los Angeles

This report was generated by the Council File Management System on 06/30/2026

Council File Number

[26-0386](#)

Title

Abandoned Structures Demolition / Fire Risk / Due Process Protocols / Owner Notification / Final Opportunity to Abate

Last Change Date

06/23/2026

Expiration Date

06/23/2028

Pending in committee

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Public Safety Committee

Mover

IMELDA PADILLA

Second

JOHN S. LEE

Action History for Council File [26-0386](#)

Date	Activity
06/23/2026	Planning and Land Use Management Committee approved item(s) .
06/18/2026	Planning and Land Use Management Committee scheduled item for committee meeting on June 23, 2026.
04/22/2026	Public Safety Committee approved item(s) .
04/21/2026	Community Impact Statement submitted by Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council.
04/17/2026	Public Safety Committee scheduled item for committee meeting on April 22, 2026.
04/09/2026	Community Impact Statement submitted by Westside Neighborhood Council.
03/13/2026	Motion referred to Planning and Land Use Management Committee; Public Safety Committee.



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 26-0386

1 message

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 8:25 PM

Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>

To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org, wncseat18@gmail.com

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enabled by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or resolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Westside

Name: Joseph Roth

Email: wncseat18@gmail.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(0) Abstain(2) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/09/2026

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 04/10/2026

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 26-0386

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: In a regular monthly meeting of the Westside Neighborhood Council, the board voted to support the Council File #26-0386 in proposing a program by which abandoned buildings can be proactively demolished to prevent fires and other potential safety risks to the public.



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 26-0386

1 message

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>

Tue, Apr 21, 2026 at 2:55 PM

Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>

To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org, jens.midthun@dlanc.com, LAFDFireCommission@lacity.org

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enabled by the Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or resolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Downtown LA

Name: Jens Midthun

Email: jens.midthun@dlanc.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(19) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/14/2026

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 04/21/2026

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees, Fire Commission

Council File Number: 26-0386

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: At our regular public meeting on April 14, 2026, the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Board of Directors voted to send the following Community Impact Statement in support of CF 26-0386: Abandoned Structures Demolition / Fire Risk / Due Process Protocols / Owner Notification / Final Opportunity to Abate. . Please see our attached letter for additional information regarding our position.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



**DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
OFFICERS**

JENS MIDTHUN
PRESIDENT

TERESA Y. HILLERY
VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION

DAMION WAGNER
VICE PRESIDENT OF
OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

TERIN NGO
SECRETARY

TATHEER ADNAN
TREASURER



WWW.DLANC.COM

EMAIL: INFO@DLANC.COM

April 14, 2026

Re: CF 26-0386: Abandoned Structures Demolition / Fire Risk / Due Process Protocols / Owner Notification / Final Opportunity to Abate

To Whom It May Concern:

At a public meeting on April 14, 2026, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to provide the following comments below:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council submits this Community Impact Statement **in support** of CF 26-0386: Abandoned Structures Demolition / Fire Risk / Due Process Protocols / Owner Notification / Final Opportunity to Abate.

Downtown Los Angeles is experiencing a growing crisis of "Demolition by Neglect." Vacant structures that remain unsecured become highly susceptible to squatting, illegal activity, and subsequent fires. These risks are further intensified in non-compliant structures where excessive storage of hazardous materials, textiles, and other highly combustible items creates extremely dangerous conditions.

These conditions frequently result in major structure fires that damage adjacent properties, disrupt operations for nearby businesses, and significantly impact the livability of surrounding residents. Most critically, these preventable incidents place firefighters' lives at serious and unnecessary risk.

A [Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety \(LADBS\) report](#) dated December 20, 2024 (CF [24-1128](#)), and a [City Attorney's Office report](#) dated November 7, 2025 (CF [24-0196](#)), highlight longstanding staffing shortages and procedural challenges between LADBS and the City Attorney's Office related to the Vacant Building Abatement (VBA) program. These reports underscore systemic delays in enforcement and abatement efforts. Without additional funding and the restoration of adequate staffing levels, including LADBS inspectors and attorneys within the City Attorney's Office, the abatement of vacant and fire-damaged structures will remain significantly hindered, allowing these dangerous conditions to persist as an ongoing public safety threat.

DLANC recommends that the City explore the use of the Los Angeles Fire Department's Heavy Equipment Operators, where appropriate, to assist in the demolition of fire-damaged vacant structures that are prone to "repeat burns," as a proactive measure to prevent recurring incidents, in coordination with LADBS, the City Attorney's Office, and the Los Angeles Police Department.

Additionally, DLANC recommends that the City Council **consider adding an Amending Motion** to include the following instructions, and **to incorporate these priorities into the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget**:

1. Request the City Attorney, in consultation with LADBS, to report back within 60 days, with an updated report, on current processes and procedures for handling nuisance abatement referrals related to vacant, abandoned, and derelict structures and parcels, including identification of procedural inefficiencies and recommendations for streamlining enforcement. The report should also explore necessary reforms to [Division 89, Article 1, Chapter IX of the LAMC](#), and other applicable sections of the Municipal Code, to expedite the abatement of vacant and fire-damaged structures.
2. Request the City Attorney to report back within 60 days, with an updated report, on the current status of LADBS referrals for criminal filings, including any backlog, average processing times, and recommendations for expediting review and enforcement actions, including referrals to the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners where appropriate.
3. Instruct LADBS, in coordination with the City Administrative Officer (CAO), to report within 60 days on current staffing levels within the Vacant Building Abatement unit, recommended staffing ratios, and funding needs required to effectively address the existing caseload, and to identify positions and resources for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget.
4. Instruct Los Angeles Fire Department, in coordination with LADBS and the City Attorney, to report within 60 days on the feasibility of utilizing Heavy Equipment Operators to support the expedited demolition of fire-damaged vacant structures that pose a high risk of repeat fires, including operational, legal, and resource considerations, and any associated budget needs for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget.

The safety and well-being of Downtown Los Angeles residents, workers, and visitors depend on the City's ability to proactively address these chronic hazards. DLANC urges immediate and coordinated action, including necessary budgetary commitments, to resolve these longstanding gaps in enforcement and protect public safety.

Sincerely,



Jens Midthun
President,
DLANC



Heera Kapoor
Chair,
DLANC Livability Committee

:RR

Cc: Mayor's Office of Public Safety (via email)
Office of the City Attorney (via email)
Operations Central Bureau, Los Angeles Fire Department (via email)
Fire Prevention & Public Safety Bureau, Los Angeles Fire Department (via email)
Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (via email)
Council District 3 (via email)
Council District 6 (via email)
Council District 14 (via email)

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/16/2026 10:09 PM

Council File No: 26-0386

Comments for Public Posting: I support the Abandoned Structures Demolition / Fire Risk motion. We have a single family dwelling in our neighborhood that is not maintained by the owners who live elsewhere. It has been a haven for drug dealers and drug users. It is only a matter of time before it goes up in flames putting other families' homes at risk. Our homes are too close together in our city to allow abandoned structures to remain standing.