



October 24, 2022

RE. Item 16 I

Dear Mayor Himmelrich and Council members:

The NOMA Board writes to strongly support Item 16 I on the October 25, 2022 City Council Agenda.

Whether you or the Council support building thousands of additional housing units is not the issue you are being asked to consider.

The issues the Council must decide is whether the City officially supports the circumventing of its community's carefully crafted and agreed upon zoning codes, which took years to establish and included thoughtful input from Santa Monica's stakeholders.

Thus, you are now being asked whether or not you support a developer's attempt to use a purported loophole to disregard the entire endeavor of city planning and, if not, are you going to take meaningful action by vigorously exploring all available legal options.

The City needs strong experienced outside Counsel to review all its legal options, including whether a more recent state law prevails and would block these projects. The public needs to be assured that all legal avenues are independently looked into.

Allowing major, community-impacting projects to move forward by way of a loophole is fundamentally undemocratic. It says that the democratic process that was used to establish our community's goals can be easily discarded.

The NOMA Board
