



Los Angeles City Councilmember  
**MITCHELL ENGLANDER**  
District 12

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## **CITY COUNCIL APPROVES DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

LOS ANGELES—This Wednesday, the Los Angeles City Council approved Councilmember Mitchell Englander’s proposal to functionally integrate the Departments of City Planning and Building and Safety to create the Department of City Planning & Development. Supported by a joint report submitted by the Department of Planning and the Department of Building and Safety outlining the recommendations and corresponding action on the City Budget, Council unanimously approved the action.

“In survey after survey, year after year, the City of Los Angeles has been described as the region’s ‘least business friendly city,’ it is imperative that we restructure our building process to promote growth and job creation within the City of Los Angeles,” said Councilmember Englander. “This process has been 13 years in the making for me personally, having worked to reform City Building and Planning policy, prior to my service as a Councilmember. This is a pivotal time citywide, where policy changes, zoning practices and technological enhancements are all under discussion. We are succeeding where many previous attempts have failed.”

Currently, building in the City of Los Angeles is a complicated undertaking often involving numerous departments. A recent attempt to reduce the number of departments involved in the City permitting process from 12 to 2 never got off the ground.

“This new unified system will center on a full customer service approach fundamentally changing the way the City of Los Angeles treats businesses,” said Englander. “It will provide certainty through comprehensive code updates and reform, plan updates and will utilize technology to enhance communication and promote transparency.”

"Streamlining the bureaucracy at City Hall is an important first step in making Los Angeles a more business friendly city," said Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa. "By centralizing all development service functions in one department, companies doing business in LA will be able to open their doors faster, adding jobs and revenue to our local economy."

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