CHINO HILLS CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE “BRAND-HUANG-MENDOZA TRIPARTISIAN LAND USE INITIATIVE”

Chino Hills, CA – At the February 8, 2022, Council Meeting, the Chino Hills City Council unanimously voted to adopt a resolution to support the “Brand-Huang-Mendoza Tripartisan Land Use Initiative.” If passed, the initiative would amend the State’s constitution to effectively restore local control over land-use and zoning matters and allow for local laws to override conflicting state laws.

In recent years, the State of California has signed many bills into law such as Senate Bill 9 (SB 9) and Senate Bill 10 (SB 10) addressing a range of land use planning and housing issues. Most of the bills enact a "one-size-fits-all" approach and override the local land use authority of local jurisdictions. This approach has removed the ability of individual jurisdictions such as the City of Chino Hills to determine the land use policies and practices best suited for their community and its residents, considering the community's unique needs and differences.

Local control allows City officials to address and consider other issues that coincide with housing developments such as parking requirements, City and emergency services needs, traffic issues, potential water shortages related to the drought, and more. Since its incorporation in 1991, Chino Hills has developed consistent with its original Specific Plan, with housing added only as required by State mandates. However, recent new State laws have dramatically increased the amount of new housing that cities, including Chino Hills, are required to permit.

SB 9 was signed into law by the State in September 2021, overriding local land use control by permitting homeowners to build a second unit on their lot or split their property and develop up to a total of four units on their property. Local jurisdictions are required to comply with SB 9 regulations. SB 10 is another recent State law that allows cities the option of permitting up to ten livable units on almost any residential lot. Because it is optional, the City of Chino Hills has chosen not to adopt SB 10.
While these State laws are aimed at producing affordable housing to help solve the State's affordable housing crisis, most do not provide any requirement or adequate incentive for developers to build low-income or moderate-income workforce housing. Instead, these State laws incentivize developer speculation that results in more market-rate or luxury housing.

The “Brand-Huang-Mendoza Tripartisan Land Use Initiative” was filed to ensure that zoning and land use authority rests with the local jurisdictions that represent the communities in which the residents reside. In doing so, each local jurisdiction will be better positioned to implement solutions that effectively address the unique needs and conditions of its community, including combating the affordable housing crisis. The initiative also prevents state and local legislative bodies from passing laws invalidating voter-approved local land-use zoning initiatives, and prohibits the state from changing, granting, or denying funding to local governments based on their implementation of the initiative.

For more information on how to get involved and to receive petitions, please visit OurNeighborhoodVoices.com.

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