July 1, 2020

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia  
California State Assembly, 56th District  
State Capitol, Room 4140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re:  AB 2256 (Garcia) Regional housing needs allocations: adjacent cities: agreements.  
City of Beverly Hills – Support

Dear Assembly Member Garcia,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of your AB 2256, which will allow two cities that meet specified requirements to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to build a housing project in one jurisdiction and share the credit associated with the housing project for purposes of satisfying their regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) requirements.

California is experiencing an extreme housing affordability crisis, which has exacerbated the state’s homelessness crisis. State and local governments must find innovative ways to meet the state’s housing production needs due to the depth and breadth of this issue. AB 2256 would allow neighboring cities to work in a collaborative manner to address their regional housing needs.

Allowing neighboring cities to collaborate on the development of affordable housing will enable city governments to leverage their individual resources in a targeted manner to address housing needs. This voluntary cross-city collaboration would assist communities facing barriers to the development of affordable housing while also recognizing the contributions being made by that City to meet the housing needs of the region.

The City of Beverly Hills faces prohibitive obstacles in the development of affordable housing due to high property values and a lack of vacant land for residential development. The City purchased land in the City of Los Angeles several years ago for constructing water wells. Due to the size of the property, it can accommodate both the water well and new affordable housing; however, current state law would provide 100 percent of the RHNA number to the City of Los Angeles should Beverly Hills decide to build housing to meet our RHNA requirements.
**AB 2256** will empower local governments to collaborate for regional housing needs and provide much needed housing for low- and very low-income households. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills is pleased to **SUPPORT** your **AB 2256**. Thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,

Lester J. Friedman  
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee  
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District  
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange