September 13, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 916 (Salas) Zoning: bedroom addition
City of Beverly Hills -- REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I respectfully request your VETO on AB 916 (Salas) when it comes before your desk. AB 916 would prohibit cities from requiring public hearings for projects seeking to add bedrooms within existing dwelling units.

On August 22, AB 916 was amended to remove the provisions regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior ADUs. While the City of Beverly Hills appreciates this amendment as it still allows for local control over ADUs and Junior ADUs, it still does not change the City’s position against state policies that override local control even as it applies to additions of two or fewer bedrooms.

The City of Beverly Hills has tools and policies in place to continue planning and developing innovative residential units that enhance the quality of life for our community. We find the public hearing process to serve a vital role when homes are being remodeled to ensure the addition of bedrooms, or other modifications, is consistent with ensuring a home serves the residential community rather than a short term rental or other non-conforming use.

It is important for the City to maintain local land use authority and ensure the City continues to have the ability to consider unique factors when reviewing housing development plans, including the expansion of existing residential dwellings. The City recognizes the importance of careful and balanced land use planning and development for housing to meet population growth and community needs. However, AB 916 inhibits the City’s ability to properly review projects that add bedrooms to existing residential dwelling units.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills requests your VETO on AB 916 (Salas).
Sincerely,

Lili Bosse
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc:  The Honorable Rudy Salas, 32nd Assembly District
     The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
     The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
     Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange