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UPLIFT INGLEWOOD ADVOCACY RESULTS IN CLIPPERS ANNOUNCING A $100 MILLION INVESTMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

As a result of Uplift Inglewood Coalition’s advocacy, the Clippers Announce a $100 Million Investment in Inglewood Community

INGLEWOOD, CA, September 11, 2019 — On Tuesday, September 10th, after years of advocacy and campaigning by Uplift Inglewood Coalition, the Clippers have announced a proposal for a $100 million investment in the Inglewood community, of which $75 million will be invested in affordable housing. The proposed $100 million investment by the Clippers contains allocations of $75 million for the development of affordable housing, $5.5 million for a tenant’s rental assistance fund, $12.75 million for schools and afterschool programs, $6 million for the Inglewood Public Library, and $500,000 for local nonprofits.

“Uplift Inglewood Coalition has for years engaged in a brave, diligent fight to ensure community-centered investments and the use of public land for public good. This proposal for a $100 million investment by the Clippers is a direct reflection of the power of community organizing and advocacy by Inglewood residents who have been fighting for equitable development and stable homes for years,” said Craig Castellanet, an attorney with the Public Interest Law Project (PILP), one of three law firms representing Uplift Inglewood.

The announcement comes after a lawsuit filed by Cozen O'Connor, Public Counsel and the Public Interest Law Project (PILP) on behalf of Uplift Inglewood charging violations of California’s Surplus Land Act (the “Act”). The Act requires cities to give first priority to affordable housing and other public uses when selling public land. Uplift Inglewood filed the suit in June of 2018 because the City did not comply with the Act prior to entering into formal negotiations to sell over 22 acres of city-owned land for the development of a Clippers Arena. The suit also alleges violation of additional California laws requiring cities to take steps to plan and zone for adequate affordable housing and shelter for homeless residents and charges that Inglewood failed to develop affordable housing replacement units it was obligated to produce several years ago.

“In the midst of booming development, skyrocketing rents and an acute shortage of affordable housing, today’s victory shows that development without displacement is possible,” said Uplift Inglewood Coalition member, Dr. D’Artagnan Scorza. Our efforts don’t stop here. We will continue to hold both the City and the Clippers accountable to the Inglewood community.”

"Unfortunately, the Coalition has seen promises broken before. It's an exciting announcement, but it's still just a concept proposal and it doesn't change the fact that the City has disregarded multiple affordable housing laws," said Katie McKeon, an attorney with the public interest law firm Public Counsel. "The devil is in the details, and any plan must be backed by a real commitment to community-centered development for and by the people of Inglewood along with
enforceable agreements. Until then, we will continue our pursuit of justice and equitable development in the courts. And we will continue to demand that the City abide by all affordable housing laws and protect all of its residents from displacement.

“Cities have an obligation under state law to prioritize the land they own to create affordable housing,” said Thomas Casparian, an attorney with Cozen O’Connor, one of the three law firms on the case. “The lawsuit against the City is to enforce its obligation to do its part to create housing for the community of Inglewood and the region. When cities ignore laws like the Surplus Land Act, it creates a ripple effect throughout the region, resulting in fewer affordable housing units and ultimately more homelessness.”

The Coalition is slated to submit their opening brief for the case on Friday, September 13th.

**Uplift Inglewood Coalition** was founded in 2015 in response to the rising costs of living and housing. The coalition members are parents, teachers, students, faith leaders, residents, elders, youth, business owners, renters, homeowners, and community members looking to help shape the future of our city so that working families can continue to live in Inglewood and benefit from the city’s resurgence. The purpose of the coalition is to bring together Inglewood residents with one voice to educate neighbors and advocate for change. Uplift Inglewood Coalition wants secure housing for working families, safer neighborhoods, and community-centered development and is organizing for sustainable community investment that addresses the rising cost of rent and housing prices.

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**About Public Interest Law Project (PILP):** is a non-profit law center providing litigation and advocacy support on affordable housing and public benefits to local legal services and public interest law programs throughout California.

**About Cozen O’Connor:** Cozen O’Connor is among the top 100 law firms in the country, with more than 700 lawyers in 26 cities across two continents. It is a full-service law firm, with nationally recognized experience in litigation, business law, and government relations. The firm’s attorneys thrive on results, defining themselves by their clients’ success.