

SUPPORT FOR TELECOMMUTING MOTION

Council Files CF 20-0584 (Ryu/Koretz) and CF 20-0498 (O'Farrell/Martinez)

Council Files [CF 20-0584](#) (Ryu/Koretz) and [CF 20-0498](#) (O'Farrell/Martinez) (link: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-0498>) which both request feasibility studies for new initiatives regarding telecommuting. (Proposed wording of WRAC position statement below.)

NOTE: both of the motions have passed and the feasibility studies are underway. However, because: 1) there is currently no proposed or passed LA City ordinance regarding telecommuting, 2) it took approximately 1 year for these motions to pass and 3) this a topic that the WRAC Mobility and Transportation Committee (MTC) feels is both very timely and very important, we would like WRAC to weigh in on this topic at this time and we would like to encourage the City Council to actively pursue timely action on this issue. If a subsequent motion(s) comes before the LA City Council as a result of these feasibility studies, the WRAC MTC would follow up with member CC's and NC's to submit CISs on these subsequent motion(s) as well.

MOTION:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) supports motions (City Council File: 20-0584 and 20-0498) introduced by Councilmember David Ryu/Koretz and O'Farrell/Martinez to create incentives for employees of businesses and for government officials and employees to work from home.

While remote work is not a panacea for the climate crisis, making the practice more widespread and available in Los Angeles could help to reduce commuter traffic, which would have the benefit of reducing vehicle air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Teleworking is just one of many tools in our toolbox that we must utilize to fight the climate crisis and create sustainable air quality improvements to our region.

By improving air quality, we also create healthier Angelenos. Air pollution is linked to a host of health problems and makes people more vulnerable to COVID-19. A recent UCLA study found that approximately 14,000 premature deaths could be avoided annually if California decreases greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Underserved communities who suffer the most from air pollution would see disproportionately higher level of benefits from cleaner air, the study also found.

WRAC actively supports the City studying these issues further and exploring their timely implementation in the City of Los Angeles.