

Assessing the Safety of High-Rise Buildings in Los Angeles County

On June 24, 2021, Champlain Towers South, a 12- story beachfront condominium building in Surfside, Florida partially collapsed taking the life of least 32 people and 113 people remain unaccounted for. This catastrophic event has heightened the fear of residents across the country who live in similar buildings.

In Los Angeles County, many high-rise buildings that were constructed over 30 years ago exist throughout the region. Most high-rise buildings are located within the incorporated cities, however, due to the tragedy and the loss of life in Surfside, it's imperative we identify buildings within the unincorporated areas that may be structurally vulnerable and potentially pose a threat to the life and safety of residents.

Marina del Rey is one unincorporated community with high-rise condo and apartment buildings. Residents of the Marina City Club towers have expressed concerns with the maintenance of their buildings and fear that they too could be victims of a tragic event. The County needs to do its part in ensuring that our communities and residents who live in high-rise buildings are safe.

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Departments of Public Works in coordination with other County Departments to:

1. Collaborate with the Fire Department to review the cause that resulted in the structural collapse of the Champlain Tower;
2. Collaborate with Assessor's Office on the creation of an inventory of similar type high-rise privately-owned buildings within the unincorporated Los Angeles County with a focus on the Marina del Rey area, and overlay the identified buildings on geologic hazard maps;
3. Require building owners to hire a structural engineer to prepare engineering assessments of similar type (high-rise) buildings in the Marina del Rey area;
4. Explore the feasibility of requiring a certification inspection program for all similar type (high-rise) buildings in the unincorporated Los Angeles County area;
5. Reach out to other jurisdictions such as City of Los Angeles and City of Long Beach to collaborate on developing joint action plans for high-rise buildings; and
6. Assemble a delegation to visit Surfside, Florida, when appropriate, to learn from their experiences and adopt any relevant Building Code changes for Los Angeles County.

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JH:dg