

What Santa Monica Residents Should Know - City Council Meeting – February 10, 2026

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>Who Benefits</u>	<u>Who Bears the Cost</u>
Items 4.I & 4.J: Emergency Declarations: Fires & Homelessness	Ratifies ongoing local emergencies, extending expanded executive authority and emergency procurement rules.	City administration; contractors; service providers able to bypass standard processes.	Residents and taxpayers via reduced oversight, long-term policy made under emergency powers.
Item 4.L: Pier & City-Owned Hotel Worker Protections	Requires recall and retention of hospitality workers at City-controlled properties.	Unionized workers; Pier-area workforce.	Businesses operating on City property; uneven application across the city.
Item 5.K: Disposition of 4th/5th/Arizona & Parking Structure 1 (Homeless Housing Negotiations)	Closed-session negotiations for disposition of City-owned downtown parcels to affordable and supportive housing developers, including permanent supportive housing providers.	Affordable housing developers; supportive housing operators; City housing pipeline goals.	Downtown residents and businesses; loss of public parking assets; neighborhoods absorbing concentrated homelessness-related services.
Item 16.B: Pause on Mills Act & Structure of Merit (Historic Preservation)	Pauses changes to historic preservation incentives to align with equity recommendations. This effectively halts updates to historic preservation incentives.	Development interests seeking fewer preservation constraints. Equity-focused planning priorities over incentive-based preservation.	Historic property owners; preservation of older buildings; neighborhoods reliant on landmark protections; loss of incentives that maintain historic fabric.

Why this matters: These items shape long-term land use, preservation policy, homelessness concentration, public asset disposition, and governance norms. Several are framed as pauses, emergencies, or closed-session negotiations, which limits public visibility while setting durable precedents that are difficult to reverse.

Many consequential decisions are bundled into the consent calendar or framed as emergency actions. Understanding who benefits and who bears the cost helps residents engage more effectively and advocate for fair, transparent outcomes.