

Communication from Public

Name:

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Council File No: 09-0420-S1

Comments for Public Posting: September 30, 2019 RE: CF 09-0420-S1: 11010 Santa Monica Boulevard (Lot 748) / City-Owned Parking Lot / CD5 / Affordable Housing Site Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council, I'm writing on behalf of my neighbors and myself to voice concern about the action before you to fund and develop a parcel (11010 Santa Monica Blvd.) as 50 units of permanent supportive housing. There is no question that more housing is needed in the city to address the homeless crisis we are all witnessing, and I have been working with my neighbors to find a better alternative than the one you will be voting on this Wednesday, October 2. We must work together to develop a less complicated configuration, that provides truly supportive services as well as housing at a less expensive cost. These are public funds you are voting to spend, and our community wants to address this issue more comprehensively and completely. The location you are voting on requires the replacement of existing parking, which unnecessarily adds to the cost of the project. The parcel is just over 10,000 square feet, forcing the project to have awkward and disruptive ingress and egress. What is perhaps the most puzzling is that I have contacted our Councilman to request the opportunity to meet about alternatives and that meeting is scheduled for October 8 -- a full week after the Council is scheduled to take action on this parcel. I respectfully request you wait until that meeting takes place. Our neighbors, community leaders, and businesses were all caught unaware by your action to move this project. We all want to see housing built to serve those experiencing homelessness, but it appears this parcel is being forced to a vote because of timing: the fear of running out of HHH funds and the absence of other homeless housing currently in this council district. While we would very much appreciate a speedy resolution and build-out of homeless supportive housing, I am concerned that in the haste to meet deadlines, there is a failure to meet the true needs of our community. I would not want a regretful decision now to deter us from truly solving a problem that needs more careful consideration. Sincerely, Rohit Mehta