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Property Owners
Alliance

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Clarett West
Development

Mark Stephenson
Hollywood United
Methodist Church

John Tronson
Whitley Court
Partners

Kerry Morrison
Executive Director

c/o Hollywood Property Owners Alliance
6562 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90028
323.463.6767

February 9, 2016

TO: Members of the Los Angeles City Council

www.hollywoodbid.org

FROM: Kerry Morrison, Executive Director, Hollywood Property Owners Alliance

SUBJECT: City Housing Strategy – Shared Housing for transition-aged-youth

Strategy 7N of the proposed city's housing strategy addresses youth housing, a significant concern and need here in Hollywood.

At a meeting last December 10, 2015, held at the office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, several of us expressed support for attempting to move past federal rules and restrictive leasing requirements that prevent accommodating more than one person per housing unit. Given the extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in in this city – with the largest unsheltered population in the county – it is important to set aside conventional rules and experiment with new approaches.

Therefore, I would ask that the following recommendation remain intact in the city's strategy:

7N: 5

Doubling-Up in Section 8 Housing

HACLA advises that it may be appropriate to include doubling-up in Section 8 unites for transitional age homeless youth or youth at-risk fo homelessness, but that further study is required.

I urge the city to keep this recommendation intact, and to perhaps strengthen it by asking for a pilot project to test the effectiveness and outcomes associated with shared housing. For example, research has documented that shared housing yields positive benefits for cost sharing and success in staying housed.¹ My reasons are fourfold:

- (1) Because of the severity of the housing shortage in Los Angeles, we can make progress at twice the rate when allowing two people to rent a unit, rather than one.
- (2) For most young people in our country, shared housing or "roommate situations" are the norm, not the exception. Why would we promote a different standard for young people coming out of homelessness?

¹ *Is Shared Housing a Way to Reduce Homelessness? The Effect of Household Arrangements on Formerly Homeless People*, March 2010, [Yinghua He](#), [Brendan O'Flaherty](#), and [Robert A. Rosenheck](#);
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2862009/>

- (3) In a shared housing situation, two people can live together more economically. This is a basic fact of life – economies of scale arise from sharing utility, food and general household expenses.
- (4) Shared housing reduces isolation and may help young people to support each other, and hold each other accountable for behaviors and goal setting.

These are common-sense assumptions that play out every day in conventional society where people elect to room together for all the reasons outlined above. I encourage HACLA to seek whatever exemptions may be required to try this pilot in Los Angeles. If this works, we may be able to see it extended to adult housing arrangements as well.

February 8, 2016

Homelessness & Poverty Committee
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Co-Chair
Councilmember Jose Huizar, Co-Chair
Councilmember Mike Bonin
Councilmember Gil Cedillo
Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr.

200 N. Spring Street, Room 340
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: **Council File 15-1138-S1, Comprehensive Homeless Strategy**

Dear Councilmembers,

We live in the South Park area and are very concerned with the issue of homelessness in the this area and all of Los Angeles. We support the following short-term solutions to the homeless crisis in the city.

Short-term recommendations

- **Fund Additional Outreach Workers-** The City needs additional outreach workers who are connecting homeless individuals to appropriate services and housing.
- **Keep the Winter Shelters Open Year-Round & 24 Hours a Day-** The City has 861 existing winter shelter beds and an additional 440 winter shelter surge beds available for inclement weather. These existing resources should be fully maximized. The South Park BID believes they should be open all day and year-round and they should offer supportive services. This would make it easier to locate individuals and help them secure housing. These facilities should also be considered as possible storage locations for homeless individual's personal property.
- **Fund Urgent Care Beds to Treat Mentally-Ill Homeless-** The LAPD estimates 30-40% of arrestees have a mental illness. Many of these individuals are taken to jail or the emergency room and not connected with appropriate services. There are currently five urgent care centers in the Count of Los Angeles and LAPD has begun to utilize them as an alternative to jail or ER but people can only stay for 23 hours. There needs to be more specialized bridge housing options for people with mental illness. It takes an average of 90 days to move homeless individuals from a shelter to permanent housing. Due to a decision from HUD, LAHSA will stop funding 2,000 transitional housing beds in 2016. The City should utilize existing resources and allocate funds accordingly.

- **Utilize City Owned Property to Open New Storage Facilities-** The City should leverage this existing resource to provide citywide storage for homeless individuals' personal property.
- **Adopt the Draft Ordinance Amending Section 56.11 of Los Angeles Municipal Code-** The South Park BID supports the draft ordinance as amended by the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee on January 25, 2016 and believes it strikes a balance between balancing the rights of all community members including homeless individuals.
- **Fund Additional Environmental Compliance Officers (ECO)-** Currently there are 16 ECO's and an additional four being trained. This represents 20 ECO's citywide. The South Park BID is concerned this is not sufficient numbers of persons to maintain sidewalks and other public areas in a safe and clean condition.

We hope you will prioritize these items as you deliberate the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy.

Thank you,
Terry Rubinroit

February 4, 2016

Homelessness & Poverty Committee
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Co-Chair
Councilmember Jose Huizar, Co-Chair
Councilmember Mike Bonin
Councilmember Gil Cedillo
Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr.

200 N. Spring Street, Room 340
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 15-1138-S1, Comprehensive Homeless Strategy

Dear Councilmembers,

The South Park Business Improvement District (SPBID) is a non-profit organization focused on bettering the physical and social environment for the residents, property owners, and businesses of the area. South Park is nestled in the southwestern corner of Downtown Los Angeles between the 10 and 110 freeways, including amenities such as the Staples Center, L.A. LIVE, Los Angeles Convention Center, the California Hospital Medical Center, and a fast-growing residential population. The SPBID commends the City for the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy and believes it is an excellent report with strong recommendations.

The SPBID is focused on short-term and long-term solutions addressing homelessness and we are encouraged by the City and County's partnership. These recommendations are offered as short-term solutions to address the serious homeless crisis facing the City.

Short-term recommendations

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- **Keep the Winter Shelters Open Year-Round & 24 Hours a Day-** The City has 861 existing winter shelter beds and an additional 440 winter shelter surge beds available for inclement weather. These existing resources should be fully maximized. The South Park BID believes they should be open all day and year-round and they should offer supportive services. This would make it easier to locate individuals and help them secure housing. These facilities should also be considered as possible storage locations for homeless individual's personal property.
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We hope you will prioritize these items as you deliberate the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy. The South Park BID is committed to partnering with the City and County to support solutions to address homelessness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Borgen', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Andrea Borgen
Owner, General Manager
barcito
South Park Business Improvement District



Los Angeles Countywide HOPWA Advisory Committee

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program

1200 West Seventh Street, 9th Floor • Los Angeles, California 90017 • Tel: (213) 808-8805 • Fax: (213) 808-8965

January 27, 2016

Chair

Brigitte Tweddell
Project New Hope

Vice-Chair

Carlos Vega- Matos
Los Angeles County
Department of Public Health
Div. of HIV and STD Progs.

Committee Members

Christopher Callandrillo
Los Angeles Homeless Services
Authority

Maureen Fabricante
Housing Authority of the
County of Los Angeles

Terry Goddard II
Alliance for Housing & Healing

Theodore Liso
Member-at-Large

Danny Pepper
West Hollywood Community
Housing Corp.

Glenda Pinney
Los Angeles County
Department of Public Health

Ricky Rosales
City of Los Angeles AIDS
Coordinator's Office

Steve Wayland
Pets Are Wonderful Support /
Los Angeles

Los Angeles City Council Homelessness and Poverty Committee

Honorable Councilman Jose Huizar, Co-Chair
Honorable Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Co-Chair
Honorable Councilman Mike Bonin
Honorable Councilman Gilbert Cedillo
Honorable Councilman Curren D. Price, Jr.
City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attn: Eric Villanueva, Legislative Assistant, City Clerk, 3rd Floor

Dear Committee Members:

The Los Angeles County HOPWA Advisory Committee (LACHAC) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on Los Angeles City's *Comprehensive Homeless Strategy*. We are concerned that the strategies do not prioritize people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) into housing, which is an integral part of reducing the transmission of HIV in Los Angeles County and moving towards an AIDS-free generation. Below, we provide a summary of homelessness and HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County, comments on the importance of prioritizing PLWHA into housing, and a recommendation for how to achieve this goal.

Demographics

As of 2014 there were an estimated 58,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County, representing 41% of all HIV/AIDS cases in California, and of those 58,000 people, 10,629 (18.1%) are undiagnosed. In addition, 75% of PLWHA live below 300% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL), and homeless individuals account for 10.8% (4,960) of the diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS in LA County.¹ These numbers are exacerbated by the structural challenges to accessing housing and supportive services and the high cost of living in LA County. *Please note that more than 65% of persons living with HIV/AIDS are in the City.*

Housing and the HIV Care Continuum

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has documented the link between housing instability and both delayed HIV diagnosis and increased risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV infection. In addition, homelessness and unstable housing are strongly associated with inadequate access to healthcare and poor health outcomes. ***It is important to note that as an infectious disease without a cure, HIV/AIDS continues to be a critical public health issue, and there is a disproportionate risk of transmission and lack of healthcare among the homeless and unstably housed.***

¹ County of Los Angeles Division of HIV and STD Programs. Ryan White Part A Fiscal Year 2014 Application. Grant No. H89HA00016.

For PLWHA and those at a high-risk of contracting HIV, stable housing is the most effective health intervention, *over time having a bigger impact on preventing transmission and retaining PLWHA in medical care than demographics, health status, insurance coverage, mental illness and substance abuse, or other supportive services.*² Retention in and continuity of medical care leads to reduced viral load (the amount of virus in the blood), which means that PLWHA are less likely to transmit HIV, and the overall County expenditures on healthcare decrease. Stable housing is also linked to more frequent HIV testing and fewer transmissions, and this three-pronged benefit of housing PLWHA will help bring LA County one step closer to realizing an AIDS-free generation.

Recommendation

Based on this evidence, it is paramount that the City include in its recommendations a strategy to prioritize PLWHA into housing. Both the City and County of Los Angeles primarily prioritize homeless individuals into housing through the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)³, which uses a scoring system to assess the “chronicity and medical vulnerability of homeless individuals”.⁴ To date, HIV/AIDS is weighted extremely low because the serious public health aspect of HIV/AIDS as a transmittable and incurable disease has not been factored into the scoring system. Thus, current methodology for prioritizing housing exacerbates the vulnerability of homeless and unstably housed individuals living with HIV/AIDS who do not qualify as “chronically” homeless. This, along with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s new definition of chronic homelessness, will leave many homeless persons with HIV/AIDS on the street and unhoused.

However, there is a clear and simple opportunity for the City to prioritize PLWHA into housing while continuing to house the chronically homeless. LACHAC recommends that the City and County both include HIV/AIDS as an automatic high acuity designation for the Coordinated Entry System (CES) prioritization for housing and services. The reduction in transmissions of HIV and lower healthcare costs for both the City and County that would result are important benefits for the community.

LACHAC sincerely appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on Los Angeles City’s *Comprehensive Homeless Strategy*. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 213-250-9481 x11. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brigitte Tweddell

Chair, Los Angeles Countywide HOPWA Advisory Committee
Executive Director, Project New Hope

² HUD Office of Community Planning and Development. *HIV Care Continuum: The Connection Between Housing And Improved Outcomes Along The HIV Care Continuum*. November 2014, <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/The-Connection-Between-Housing-and-Improved-Outcomes-Along-the-HIV-Care-Continuum.pdf>

³OrgCode Consulting, Inc. *About the VI-SPDAT*. January 2016. <http://www.orgcode.com/product/vi-spdatt/>

⁴ Ibid