

August 11, 2017



HILLVIEW

MENTAL
HEALTH
CENTER
I N C

Chair Jose Huizar and
Members of the Planning & Land Use Management Committee (PLUM)
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012
c/o City Clerk

RE: C.F. 16-0503 – Lorena Plaza project

Dear Chairman Huizar and Members of the PLUM Committee:

I am writing in support of the Lorena Plaza project, and to urge the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) to deny the CEQA appeal filed by El Mercado.

My organization, Hillview Mental Health Center, Inc., established in 1966, is a pioneer in the development of supportive housing for people with serious mental illness. We have operated Hillview Village in a residential neighborhood for close to thirty years without incident, providing permanent housing for people who would otherwise have been homeless and sleeping on the streets in our neighborhoods.

The proposed 49-unit Lorena Plaza project will help Los Angeles address the homeless crisis the City is experiencing. Half of the apartments will also be dedicated for veterans and their families.

Without additional housing stock homelessness will continue to grow, reducing quality of life in our neighborhoods. Supportive housing will keep our neighborhoods safer. Low income housing for homeless people must not be discriminated against under the guise of “protecting our children” and our “sensitive residents.”

Affordable housing is a clear mandate of the citizens of Los Angeles as evidenced by Proposition HHH and Measure H. We have no time to lose as homelessness is outpacing our capacity for developing new housing.

Please support A Community of Friends’ proposed Lorena Plaza Project in Boyle Heights. I urge the Planning and Land Use Management Committee to move forward as quickly as possible with this development of crucial housing for disabled and very low-income residents.

Sincerely,

Eva S. McCraven Ph.D.
President & CEO
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The Honorable Chair Jose Huizar and
Members of the Planning & Land Use Management Committee (PLUM)
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: C.F. 16-0503 – Lorena Plaza project

Dear Chairman Huizar and Members of the PLUM Committee:

We are writing to express our sincere support of the Lorena Plaza project, and to urge the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) to deny the CEQA appeal filed by El Mercado.

Our organization, SELAH NHC (*The Silver Lake, Echo Park, Los Feliz, Atwater Village, and Hollywood Neighborhood Homeless Coalition*) was first born out of the successful cross-neighborhood Welcome Home Program event done through PATH, at their permanent supportive housing development in Silver Lake, where we helped turn a house into a home for a neighbor who was experiencing homelessness. We're now combining forces and voices to build a neighborhood-level movement to respond to homelessness in a proactive, compassionate, and effective way.

With over 150 members, we coordinate bi-monthly homelessness engagement days where neighbors connect with neighbors experiencing homelessness, to alleviate their suffering, and hopefully, to one day help them find a place they can call home.

A Community of Friends (ACOF), proposed 49-unit Lorena Plaza project will help Los Angeles address the homeless crisis the City is experiencing. Half of the apartments will also be dedicated for formerly homeless veterans and their families. ACOF has two permanent supportive housing apartment buildings in the Silver Lake community. Both buildings faced community opposition before they were built. Now they are productive and truly valued members of the Silver Lake community.

We passionately believe that everyone deserves a home. It is unconscionable to hold up this desperately needed project on baseless CEQA pretexts, which were promulgated to mask illegal and discriminatory concerns, especially at a time when there is a massive housing crisis in Los Angeles, and coupled with a massive homeless crisis.

Angelenos turning out and overwhelmingly approving tax increases and bond measures via measures H and HHH to address this crisis serve as a perfectly clear statement of values.

We urge you to deny the appeal and allow the project to proceed.

Sincerely,

SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition

Cat Kim, East Hollywood-Los Feliz Homeless Coalition Vice President
Darius Derakshan, Silver Lake NC Homelessness Committee Co-Chair
Dorit Dowler-Guerrero, MPA, Director, Lilly's Place
Janet Kim, MS, Los Feliz NC Board Member & Budget Advocate
Nithya Raman, MCP, Silver Lake NC Homelessness Committee Co-Chair