



August 14, 2017

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: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

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

Dear Chairman Huizar and Members of the PLUM Committee:

On behalf of the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), 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.

As a partner committed to ending homelessness, we commend the City's leadership toward achieving this common goal and thank you for your commitment in passing Measure HHH – a historic achievement that will create homes for the most vulnerable while helping to build strong, healthy communities.

As you are aware, in the city of Los Angeles, on any given night, 34,000 men, women and children are experiencing homelessness—a 20% increase since last year. Last fall, LA voters also confirmed their commitment to addressing homelessness by supporting Measure HHH—\$1.2 billion dollar bond with the primary purpose of housing our fellow Angelenos. Additionally, Measure H, also overwhelmingly supported by LA voters, dedicates a quarter cent sales tax to fund services for new supportive housing. Because of these initiatives, we are now more urgently tasked to house people experiencing homelessness—a task that requires urgent action, namely the creation of supportive housing units.

A Community of Friends is an established community partner endeavoring to end homelessness through supportive housing. The proposed 49-unit Lorena Plaza project will help Los Angeles address the homeless crisis the City is experiencing and is the realization of what LA residents voted to do when casting their ballots last fall. Half of the apartments will be dedicated for veterans and their families.

I urge you to deny the appeal and allow the project to proceed – providing homes, and ending homelessness, for forty nine vulnerable Angeleno households.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Howden", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Howden
Associate Director, CSH LA



SPA6 Homeless Coalition

Los Angeles Service Planning Area 6
2814 W. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90008
www.spa6homeless.org

Email: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

August 14, 2017

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:

We are writing in support of the Lorena Plaza project, 3407 E. First Street, Los Angeles, 90063, and to urge the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) to deny the CEQA appeal filed by El Mercado.

The SPA6 Homeless Coalition, formed in 2012, unites more than thirty homeless service providers, faith-based organizations that work with the homeless, and city and county agencies that work with the homeless in the County's Service Planning Area 6. SPA6 runs from the 10 Freeway south to include Compton, Paramount, and Lynwood. It has the second-largest concentration of homeless in the county after SPA4, which includes Skid Row. We are desperately in need here of new projects to house the homeless and those about to become homeless. A negative decision on this Boyle Heights property by the city will empower and encourage NIMBYism throughout Los Angeles County.

While the citizens of Los Angeles showed generous concern for the 58,000 homeless here by passing Proposition HHH to build 10,000 units of permanent supportive housing, it seems that business and homeowners do not want those units in their neighborhoods. We saw this in Venice, when community opposition prevented the reuse of a vacant senior center merely for homeless storage.

If the PLUM Committee gives in to business and homeowner opposition to low-income and homeless housing, the admirable and sorely needed goals of Proposition HHH will never be met. We will be worse off a decade hence than we are now.

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.

Testimony in opposition to the project raised objections that will face virtually every homeless housing project: the fear of “putting our children at risk,” that housed formerly homeless people will threaten the livelihood of nearby businesses such as the next door El Mercado. If those objections are given weight, or allowed to stand hidden behind the current appeal to CEQA, only industrial districts will remain for potential sites, places that are inhumane and impractical because of the lack of grocery stores and adequate transportation.

As you know this project is similar in size to many other affordable housing projects in the City of Los Angeles which also received mitigated negative declarations. The issues identified in the CEQA appeal are not significant enough to require more than this determination. The appellant has also consistently raised issues related to the mental health status of the proposed tenants, belying their true opposition. We urge you to deny the appeal and allow the project to proceed.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Thompson
Chair

August 14, 2017

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

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to you to state our strong support for the proposed 49-unit affordable housing development, the Lorena Plaza, at 3401-3415 East First St and 116-126 South Lorena St, case DIR-2015-1998-DB. We urge the city to reject the appeal of the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring Plan (MMP) for this project.

The greater Los Angeles region is facing a severe housing shortage. This project will provide much needed dedicated affordable housing. Thousands of families across the LA region are in need of housing developments like these. Abundant Housing LA believes that these housing challenges can only be addressed if everyone in the region does their part.

With overwhelming support for Measure HHH and Measure H, the people of Los Angeles have made it clear that housing the homeless is one of the top priorities in the region. Residents have voted to tax themselves to fund these badly needed housing units; now is the time to put those funds to work. This project, dedicating half of its units to the homeless and half to low income veterans and families, will make LA a better place.

This project is in a fantastic location for housing. It is only two blocks from the Metro Gold Line stop at Indiana, and is directly served by Metro bus service (Route 30/330). It provides good transit access to major employment centers in downtown LA, Koreatown, and Hollywood. In addition, many desirable neighborhood amenities like retail and restaurants are in easy walking and cycling distance.

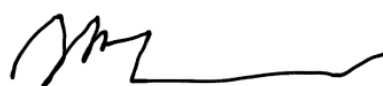
This project is a good project for Los Angeles and for the region. Again, we urge the city to reject the appeal of the MND and MMP, and allow this project to proceed.

Best Regards,

The Abundant Housing LA Steering Committee:



Matt Dixon
620 W Wilson Ave, Unit H
Glendale 91203



Mark Vallianatos
3591 Canada St
Los Angeles 90065



Brent Gaisford
3236 Hutchison Ave
Los Angeles 90034



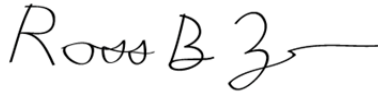
Leonora Yetter
1013 16th St, Unit 102
Santa Monica 90403



Mark Edwards
1174 N Curson Ave, #8
West Hollywood 90046



Gabe Rose



Ross Zelen