



International Institute  
of Los Angeles

*Serving the community since 1914*

8/30/17

Council President Herb Wesson and  
Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 360  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
c/o City Clerk

E. Stephen Voss, President and CEO

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

Dear Council President Wesson and Members of the City Council:

I am writing in support of the Lorena Plaza project, and in opposition to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee report to grant the CEQA appeal filed by El Mercado. Please deny the CEQA appeal.

My organization, International Institute, has been a Boyle Height institution for more than a century, and still extends various services to residents from our office at 4<sup>th</sup> and Boyle streets. Lorena Plaza consists of 49 apartments and 10,000 s.f. of commercial space. To require a full environment impact report on a project of this size is setting a precedent for future similar projects. Lorena Plaza 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; this is particularly important as veteran homelessness increased 56% in the City in the past year.

Having worked with homeless individuals since 1977, I know there are no simple solutions. One might even use the word “courageous” when seeking leadership that calls us all to our better selves. Indeed, voters are asking the City to address homelessness with passage of HHH and H.

Lorena Plaza is a good project that has community support. The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council voted 15-1 in support the project in 2015. Certainly, we urge the City Council to help the project become a reality. Please deny the appeal and support the Mitigated Negative Declaration recommended by Planning Department staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Stephen Voss".

E. Stephen Voss  
President and CEO

Copy: Mayor Eric Garcetti

A decorative graphic in the bottom left corner consisting of several overlapping, flowing yellow and white shapes.