

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

Name: Liz Amsden

Phone Number: [323-254-0590](tel:323-254-0590)

Email: lizamsden@hotmail.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/01/2016

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 09/14/2016

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 16-1800-S2

Agenda Date:

Item Number: 13

Summary: Requests the City presents: (i) a more concrete plan PRIOR to asking Los Angeles voters to vote for the bond measure to ensure all jurisdictions are working in tandem to ensure money raised by the bonds is spent wisely and in the most efficacious manner possible, (ii) include provisions for transparency and oversight, and (iii) avoid spending funds on the continued policing, harassment and imprisonment of our homeless.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Post Office Box 50791
Los Angeles, CA 90050
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

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DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT
200 N. Spring St. Ste.2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: (213) 978-1551

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Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

September 1, 2016

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CF 16-1800-S2 – Homelessness Reduction and Prevention, Housing and Facilities Bond Measure

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council which represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood has submitted a number of letters and CIS over the past couple of years detailing our concerns and suggestions on reducing the numbers of homeless in the City in general and in the northeast in particular.

We were pleased to see our Councilmembers, Jose Huizar and Gil Cedillo, work towards alleviating the situation on many fronts, one of which was the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction and Prevention, Housing and Facilities Bond Measure (Council File: 16-1800-S2) which will appear on the November 2016 ballot as a general obligation bond proposition requiring a two-thirds majority approval by voters.

Pursuant to the ordinance, a \$1.2 billion bond on which the City would pay a maximum rate of 12% would be issued to fund safe, clean affordable housing for the homeless and for those in danger of becoming homeless, including battered women and their children, veterans, seniors, foster youth, and the disabled. It would also provide facilities to increase access to mental health care, drug and alcohol treatment, and other services.

HHPNC CIS on homelessness bond

The latest Homeless Count estimates 27,000 homeless individuals live on the streets of Los Angeles. This number is low as it does not account for couch surfers and those sleeping in vehicles. The Comprehensive Homeless Strategy adopted by the Council identified the need to create 10,000 supportive housing units and to significantly expand services for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless as a result of inconsistent income, personal financial setbacks such as medical emergencies and/or the erosion of affordable housing throughout the City.

Approval of the bond measure would give the City authority to sell bonds up to \$1.2 billion over time as needed, and would require regular and transparent oversight by:

1. a seven-member Citizens Oversight Committee (4 Mayoral and 3 Council appointees) to be established by ordinance;
2. a three-member Administrative Oversight Committee to be established consisting of the Mayor, City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst (duties and scope to be established by ordinance);
3. a citizens Oversight Committee to provide the Administrative Oversight Committee an annual allocation plan for the upcoming fiscal year by April 1 each year to be reviewed and approved by the Administrative Oversight Committee and subsequently by the City Council and Mayor; and
4. an annual financial audit by the City Controller.

These are admirable goals, however, given the amount of money involved and given other pressing needs in the City and given that services for the homeless included City, County, State and Federal jurisdictions, we call on the City to present a more concrete approach *prior* to asking Los Angeles voters to vote for the bond measure to ensure all jurisdictions are working in tandem to ensure money raised by the bonds is spent wisely and in the most efficacious manner possible.

Furthermore, given that it is a national disgrace and that Los Angeles has a significantly elevated homeless population due to its climate, its policy of caring for those in need, and because some cities' solution to their own homeless problem was to buy one-way tickets to the coast, the City needs to obtain funding from and work with the appropriate Federal, State and County agencies to resolve the homeless crisis.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council therefore strongly urges the Mayor's Office, the City Council and applicable Departments of the City of Los Angeles to provide a comprehensive plan that includes, but is not limited to:

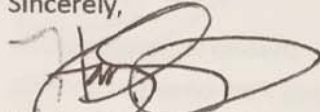
1. City property use determinations
 - a. City-owned assets identification and selection criteria/process
 - b. Eminent domain and property purchasing strategies
 - c. Construction, acquisition and capital improvements timetable
 - d. Construction terms and management
 - e. Rent control inventory affects
2. Land developer/contractors selection criteria/process

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- a. Financing allocation protocols
3. Homeless Support and Service non-profit partners/contractors selection criteria/process
 - a. Roles and responsibilities
 - b. Expectations and services
 - c. Subsidy allocations and oversight
4. Homeless Youth Support and Education
 - a. Collaboration and Partnerships
 - i. Los Angeles Unified School District Homeless Education Program
 - ii. Los Angeles County Office of Education
 - iii. District and Charter School homeless liaisons
5. Community outreach campaign
 - a. Anticipated expenditures and targeted approach
 - b. Community expeditors identification and employment

Furthermore, the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council requests that the Mayor and City use this opportunity to take action to help the homeless, and avoid spending funds on the continued policing, harassment and imprisonment of our homeless brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,



Harvey Slater, President

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council