December 6, 2017

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Chair, Homelessness and Poverty Committee
Room 1010, City Hall

Re: CF: 17-0090-S2; HHH Permanent Supportive Housing Loan Program Regulations

Councilmembers:

I am writing to respectfully request the Committee adopt the amendments to the HHH Permanent Supportive Housing Loan Program Guidelines to better address the homeless crisis. Specifically, I suggest that projects containing a minimum of twenty-five (25) units reserved for homeless individuals should be eligible to apply for HHH funds for those units only.

The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count of 2017 revealed that there are nearly 57,794 people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County, nearly 60 percent of which are located in the City of Los Angeles. We desperately need projects like the McCadden Campus to achieve the City’s housing goals and improve the quality of life for low-income persons or those experiencing homelessness. Projects like these help ensure that residents remain stably housed.

The toll our housing crisis is having on communities and those experiencing homelessness is considerable and long lasting. While the City is making progress, the urgency of the situation must be addressed in all policies related to the determination and allocation of available funding, and specifically those funds available through the passage of Proposition HHH.

Over the past two years my office has passionately advocated in support of the much needed services and housing the new McCadden Campus will provide. The Center offers service-enriched, quality affordable housing for youth, seniors, and formerly homeless individuals in Council District Four and beyond. In my work to ensure this
project move forward there have been numerous bureaucratic hurdles resulting in time delays with potentially devastating impacts to the financing and feasibility of the project. We, as a City, need to be innovative, progressive, and aggressive in pursuing and advancing all housing solutions for the crisis we are facing. Impediments to projects such as the McCadden Campus need to be eliminated and funding sources streamlined in order to achieve the policy intentions of HHH as quickly as possible in response to our constituency’s support for the Proposition.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

David E. Ryu
Councilmember, District Four