



Eric (Roderico) Villanueva <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

Comment on RESOLUTION to support a minimum of 222 new units of supportive housing, funded by Proposition HHH over a three year period.

1 message

Maryam Zar <maryamzarjd@yahoo.com> Tue, Mar 20, 2018 at 11:54 PM
Reply-To: Maryam Zar <maryamzarjd@yahoo.com>
To: Marqueece Harris-Dawson <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, Mike Bonin <mike.bonin@lacity.org>
Cc: "monica.rodriguez@lacity.org" <monica.rodriguez@lacity.org>, Jose Huizar <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, Curren Price <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org" <Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org>, David Grahamcaso <david.grahamcaso@lacity.org>

Dear Homelessness and Poverty Committee,

I've had the good fortune of becoming familiar with the work of LA Family Housing through a housing forum I hosted in my west side neighborhood of Pacific Palisades, where I chaired our Task Force on Homelessness when it was founded, and currently Chair the Community Council. I've also had a chance to meet LAFH President, Stephanie Klasky Gamer, who spoke before you in City Council chambers on Tuesday, through Amy Aliane Wakeland, the First Lady of Los Angeles, in my role as City Commissioner, where I spearhead our focus on homelessness.

It is in that role that I want to ask you today to be mindful of female homelessness as a specific subset of the homeless population, and not to forget their unique needs as you address citywide homelessness. According to St. Joseph Center, the lead coordinating agency for CES on the Westside, women represent at least 16% of the city's homeless population, and single women heading households - that is women experiencing homelessness with their children - increase that percentage even more. So, as you look across your districts to identify opportunities for housing, up to and beyond 222 units, I ask that you each allocate a commensurate amount of those units to housing women.

I'd like to give a shout out to CM Ryu for his efforts to focus on female homelessness in his district by converting a city owned property into female housing, and addressing NIMBYism head on. I'd also like to recognize my own Councilmember, Mike Bonin, who tirelessly advocates for homeless solutions and acknowledges the need to address female homelessness, specifically, as a fast growing subset of the homeless population.

I also want to mention my involvement in local Neighborhood and Community Councils. Not only do I Chair my local Community Council, I also Vice-Chair the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, where I persistently keep a focus on homelessness and the need for solutions. I have suggested to our members that we host a Westside town hall on homelessness, inviting prominent service providers and stakeholders in our region (which spans from the border of Malibu to South Bay, and from the beach to the border to Beverly Hills). I can help Councilmembers in crafting and laying down a winning narrative in communities to counter the NIMBY instinct, and help focus people's energies on solutions rather than criticisms.

Thank you for your leadership and thank you for your time in considering my comments.

Best, Maryam Zar

*Maryam Zar, J.D.
Chair, Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC)
Vice Chair, Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC)
Commissioner, LA City Commission on the Status of Women*

3/21/2018

City of Los Angeles Mail - Comment on RESOLUTION to support a minimum of 222 new units of supportive housing, funded by Propositi...

Contributor, Huffington Post (MaryamZar on HuffPost)

Founder, Womenfound (womenfound.org); Twitter @Womenfound

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Homelessness and Poverty Committee - 222.pdf

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Maryam Zar
Los Angeles Resident (Council District 11)
City Commissioner on the Commission on the Status of Women
1054 Enchanted Way
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

LA City Council
Homelessness and Poverty Committee
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

March 20, 2018

Re: Female homelessness and the need to focus housing resources on this subset of the homeless population as you consider creating 222 units in each Council District

Dear Homelessness and Poverty Committee Chair and Members,

I've had the good fortune of becoming familiar with the work of LA Family Housing through a housing forum I hosted in my west side neighborhood of Pacific Palisades, where I chaired our Task Force on Homelessness when it was founded, and currently Chair the Community Council.

I've also met Stephanie Klaskey Gamer, who spoke before you in City Council chambers on Tuesday, through Amy Aliane Wakeland, the First Lady of Los Angeles, in my role as City Commissioner, where I spearhead our focus on homelessness.

It is in that role that I want to ask you today to be mindful of female homelessness as a specific subset of the homeless population, and not to forget their unique needs as you address citywide homelessness. According to St. Joseph Center, the lead coordinating agency for CES on the Westside, women represent at least 16% of the city's homeless population, and single women heading households - that is women experiencing homelessness with their children - increase that percentage even more.

As you look across your districts to identify opportunities for housing, up to and beyond 222 units, I ask that you each allocate at least 16% of those units to housing women.

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advocates for homeless solutions and acknowledges the need to address female homelessness, specifically, as a fast growing subset of the homeless population.

I also want to mention that I am heavily involved in local Neighborhood and Community Councils. Not only do I Chair my local Community Council, I also Vice-Chair the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, where I persistently keep a focus on homelessness and solutions. I have suggested to our members that we host a Westside town hall on homelessness, inviting some prominent service providers and stakeholders in our region (which spans from the border of Malibu to South Bay, and from the beach to the border to Beverly Hills). I can help Councilmembers in crafting and laying down a winning narrative in communities to counter the NIMBY instinct, and help focus people's energies on solutions rather than criticisms.

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Best, Maryam Zar



Empowering people & the agencies that serve them...
 "Un-digging pitfalls" to influence sustainable positive changes & create pathways to reach our fullest potential—educationally, physically, professionally, socially and economically.

*Pitfalls: hidden, unexpected problems, challenges, barriers —both personal & societal—that hinder progress



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JOANNE RUSSELL

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March 19, 2018

Council File Number: 17-0090-S3

Council File Title: Proposition HHH / Councilmember Pledge / Supportive Housing Units / Respective Districts

Los Angeles City Council / HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY COMMITTEE

Via Email: CityClerk@lacity.org | Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org

Dear Los Angeles City Council Members:

I applaud your effort to place a measureable, defined timeline for delivering on the commitment by the City and its residents to provide much needed housing solutions to help eliminate homelessness. The pledge for 222 Supportive Housing Units within the boundaries of each Council District has the potential to penetrate the "not in my backyard" barrier when the integrity of the neighborhood locations are maintain and increased; and the viable services are tailored to give the inhabitants a pathway to well-being and self-betterment.

I do ask that each Council person places a premium on restoring the dignity and hope of those you seek to assist. When you do this you will develop dwellings that you would spend a day in and ensure that there are several clear avenues that make it possible for the inhabitant to move up and out to make space for another person needing a hand up.

This pledge has the potential of making Los Angeles a leader in strategically resolving the exorbitant levels of homelessness in large urban cities only by implementing humane solutions. Wise fiscal stewardship over the Proposition HHH funds that will be used over the three year period of July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2020 to provide the planned 3,330 City-wide supportive housing units could lead to a model for the nation. I am sure you agree that a thoughtful and efficient plan could attract public-private partners who could help design facilities we could seamlessly incorporate into Los Angeles' plans for a healthy, equitable, and vibrant City for all Angelinos.

Thank you Council persons Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Jose Huizar, Nury Martinez, Herb Wesson, Jr., as well as Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, and David E. Ryu for your cooperative effort on behalf of the homeless children, women, and men of Los Angeles. Together, we can make a difference...Let's Make It Happen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Russell
 Engaged Citizen
 Empowerment Congress – Human Services
 NANDC Homelessness Liaison