

September 3, 2018

The a`Beckett Family
1601 Vine Street,
Los Angeles, CA. 90028

Attention: Eric Villaneuva

Re: Council File 18-0352, Temporary Bridge Housing location in Hollywood, 1533 Schrader Blvd

To members of the Los Angeles City Council, member of the Homelessness & Poverty Committee, and members of the Budget & Finance Committee,

We write to you as a young family living in Hollywood. We enjoy every aspect of our life in this community. We have grounded many aspects of our day-to-day lives in this immediate area; we work here, we send our children to local schools, we dine, we shop, we work-out, we go to concerts all within an incredible half mile radius of where we live.

Sadly though, to do any of this, we are confronted with countless homeless encampments on our streets. We are constantly saddened by the extent to which our system has failed many of these forgotten, overlooked & misunderstood members of our community. The cause of this epidemic is multi-faceted, and we are under no illusions that there is a one shot cure-all resolution to this matter. But at the same time we have been frustrated with the Mayor and City Council's tacit and lackluster response to this problem.

Recently though the political attention seems to have finally been directed to focus on delivering meaningful solutions to communities like ours, to take the first step in providing a housing options to the vulnerable, at-risk communities that live on our streets that are seeking assistance.

The Bridge Home program is a cost-effective, timely response to address the needs of a system that is over-burdened and under-supplied with available housing units. We strongly support the development of the temporary bridge housing location on Schrader Blv because it will give the groups who are in day-to-day contact with vulnerable homeless individuals an actual place to offer them to stay, as an intermediary location until a permanent location be identified for them.

We came to be aware of this program through the outreach of the office of Council District 13. We thank Council Member O'farrell, Hollywood Field Deputy Dan Halden, and Kerry Morrison of the Hollywood Property Owners Alliance. With their assistance, we had the opportunity to meet with members of People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) and The Center at Blessed Sacrament, the two groups that have been recommended to operate the Bridge Housing facility. We heard directly from members of the local LAPD Hollywood station about how helpful this facility will be for their efforts to keep the most vulnerable members of the homeless community safe from the predatory and criminal elements of homeless population. The compassion and dedication each individual applies to their work in this effort is inspiring and something we as a community should do more to recognize.

But most importantly, individuals that want help, that need help, that are willing to accept help, will now have a greater likelihood of receiving that assistance, and getting the care they need to make meaningful change in their life to gain them a permanent housing location in the near future.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to learn more about this program from those who have been recommended to operate, and we encourage members of our community to continue to do the same. Leave your pre-conceptions of what you think you know this program is at the door, and learn more about the truly positive impact it will have on our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and we urge you to support and approve the Temporary Housing location at 1533 Schrader Boulevard.

Sincerely,
The a`Beckett family.