



May 9, 2018

The Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
President, Los Angeles City Council
Councilmember, 10th District
200 N. Spring Street, Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: SUPPORT for a Temporary Homeless Shelter in Koreatown
682 S. Vermont Avenue – Council File NO. 18-0392

Dear Council President Wesson:

I am writing to express our support for the proposed temporary homeless shelter in Koreatown, located at 682 S. Vermont Avenue (CF No. 18-0932). We applaud the City's leadership over the last three years in addressing homelessness, which has impacted every neighborhood throughout the City of Los Angeles.

As you are aware, voters approved both Proposition HHH and Measure H in rapid succession in 2016 and 2017, with significant support. The public has given the City a mandate to solve the homeless crisis in our City and County. Proposition HHH provides \$1.2 billion in construction funds for supportive housing and homeless facilities, a long-term strategy to provide much needed housing. Measure H provides over \$355 million a year in services to complement HHH, providing the much needed support and services that individuals experiencing homelessness need.

While A Community of Friends is a developer and operator of longer term supportive housing, we recognize that development takes time. As such, we support a range of short-term strategies to relieve the suffering and negative impacts of street homelessness, as long as these temporary solutions are a path towards a permanent housing solution and do not divert existing capital resources away from construction of permanent homes.

The Mayor recently announced the provision of \$20 million dollars to build emergency shelters throughout the City, with a minimum of 15 up and running by January 2019. With these shelters will come extra services for cleanups and outreach teams for every neighborhood that provides a site. Koreatown is in need of a shelter. Recent estimates indicate that there are approximately 400 homeless individuals in Koreatown, one of the largest densities of homelessness in the City. As our main office is in Koreatown, we know that most publicly-owned land in Koreatown are parks, libraries, and schools, and there are very few options to site a temporary shelter where it is desperately needed. The only available site in Koreatown owned and controlled by the City of Los Angeles is the DOT Parking lot at 682 S. Vermont Avenue. Koreatown needs this shelter.

Every neighborhood and community needs to participate throughout the City if we are serious about ending homelessness. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,


Dora Leong Gallo
Chief Executive Officer

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Dora Leong Gallo

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