



Hunger Action Los Angeles

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May 10, 2018

Councilmember Herb Wesson
City of Los Angeles
Dear Councilmember Wesson:

Hunger Action Los Angeles is a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization ending hunger and promoting healthy eating through education, advocacy and direct service. We are writing to support the establishment of a shelter for the homeless at Vermont & 7th street in Koreatown, not far from our headquarters at St. Mary's Church at 961 S Mariposa in the very heart of Koreatown.

The residents of Los Angeles voted overwhelmingly to assist the growing homeless population in LA by creating housing opportunities, as well as temporary shelters where people can stabilize their lives while getting situated with permanent housing. Like you, we are hearing objections to the construction of the shelter and are dismayed. Some are objecting saying that homeless will be attracted to the neighborhood; having worked here for 12 years, I can tell you that homeless human beings are already here and will be well served by a shelter.

We believe that homeless humans should share space with housed humans leading to a reintegration into a more stable life, rather than segregating people in a city that doesn't have enough room. The presence of skilled staff funded through the County's new resources to end homelessness will increase the chances that many who are now homeless in Koreatown will be able to re-enter society equipped to become self-sufficient, resulting in fewer people on the street.

Hunger Action LA is in full support of this shelter and of the County's heroic efforts to end homelessness in Los Angeles, and stand ready with our members, several of whom are formerly homeless, to do our part in making the shelter a success, that hopefully will be celebrated even by those who now protest it.

Sincerely,

Frank Tamborello
Executive Director
Hunger Action Los Angeles
961 S Mariposa Ave
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