



# Shelter Partnership

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May 16, 2018

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

**RE: SUPPORT – TEMPORARY HOMELESS SHELTER IN KOREATOWN  
682 S. VERMONT AVENUE (LOT 691)– COUNCIL FILE NO. 18-0392**

Dear Council President Wesson:

This letter is to indicate Shelter Partnership's strong support for the proposed temporary homeless shelter in Koreatown located at 682 S. Vermont Avenue (CF No. 18-0932). We applaud the City's and your leadership over the last three years with respect to the issue of homelessness, and agree that urgent action is needed to expand the number of homeless shelters in the City. Each Council District must do its part in this respect given that homelessness is a city wide issue. Otherwise, we will fall far short of our collective goal of ending homelessness.

According to the most recent estimates, there are approximately 400 homeless individuals in Koreatown, one of the largest densities of homelessness in the City. This number may actually be higher once LAHSA releases the results of the 2018 Point-in-Time Count.

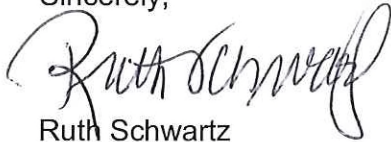
Most publicly owned land in Koreatown consists of parks, libraries, and schools, and there are very few options to site a temporary shelter where it is desperately needed. The only available site owned and controlled by the City of Los Angeles is the DOT Parking lot at 682 S. Vermont Avenue (Lot 691). Koreatown needs this shelter: a sidewalk or an alley is not a dignified place for someone experiencing homelessness to sleep; similarly, so many unsheltered individuals in one neighborhood is not conducive to the public health and safety of Koreatown and its residents.

Through the passage of Proposition HHH and Measure H, the public has given us a mandate to solve the homeless crisis in our City and County. Proposition HHH provides for \$1.2 billion in construction funds for supportive housing, a *long-term* strategy to provide much needed housing. Measure H provides an estimated \$355 million a year in services to complement HHH, providing the much needed support and services that individuals experiencing homelessness need. However, what is needed immediately is a *short-term, interim* strategy throughout the City to get individuals off the street and engaged with services. Our experience in the field over the last 30 plus years has taught us that it is far easier, and more effective, to engage someone in services when his or her most basic need for shelter has been addressed.

In order to address the short-term need, the Mayor has announced \$30 million 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. Therefore, by supporting one of these shelters, Koreatown will benefit from less unsheltered homeless persons and greater public services.

Once again, we support the use of the DOT parking lot at 682 S. Vermont Avenue as a temporary homeless shelter to help solve this crisis. Every neighborhood and community needs to participate throughout the City if we are to achieve the mandates of Proposition HHH and Measure H.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ruth Schwartz  
Executive Director