



May 10, 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 – TEMPORARY HOMELESS SHELTER IN KOREATOWN
682 S. VERMONT AVENUE – COUNCIL FILE NO. 18-0392**

Dear Council President Wesson:

Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles (ACT-LA) is a citywide coalition of 35 tenants rights, affordable housing, transit equity, and community development organizations striving to create a more sustainable and equitable city.

This letter is to indicate our support for the proposed temporary homeless shelter in Koreatown located at 682 S. Vermont Avenue (CF No. 18-0932). We support the City of Los Angeles moving forward quickly and creatively to address this severe and urgent crisis. Every community and every neighborhood needs to play a role in solving the problem of homelessness. We applaud the City's initiative to create bridge homes in Koreatown and other districts and urge the City to do this in communication and collaboration with local homeless services and affordable housing organizations to create the conditions for success.

With the passage of Proposition HHH in November 2016 with 77 percent of the vote, and the passage of Measure H in March 2017 with 69 percent of the vote, the public has given us a mandate to solve the homeless crisis in our City and County. Proposition HHH provides for \$1.2 billion dollars in construction funds for supportive housing and homeless facilities, a long-term strategy to provide much needed housing. Measure H provides over \$355 million dollars a year in services to complement HHH, providing the much needed support and services that individuals experiencing homelessness need.

According to the most recent estimates, there are approximately 400 homeless individuals in Koreatown, one of the largest densities of homelessness in the City. 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. Furthermore, this site is nearby the Vermont/Wilshire LA Metro transit hub, providing a proximity to mass transit that is important infrastructure to supporting homeless Angelenos' access to services and jobs.

Koreatown needs this shelter, and other neighborhoods like Westwood, Hollywood, South Los Angeles, Mid-City, Studio City, Valley Village, North Hollywood, Van Nuys, and Chinatown are considering doing the same.

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,

Laura Raymond
Campaign Director
Alliance for Community Transit- Los Angeles