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Southern California Association of Non Profit Housing

5/16/2018

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:

On behalf of the Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing (SCANPH), this letter is to indicate our organization's 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 with respect to the issue of homelessness that has affected every neighborhood throughout the City of Los Angeles.

The public has provided a strong mandate to solve the homeless crisis 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. While Proposition HHH's \$1.2 billion dollars in construction funds for supportive housing and homeless facilities combined with Measure H's \$355 million dollars a year in services are both a long term strategy to provide much needed housing and support, we recognize the additional need for a short-term strategy throughout the City to get individuals off the street and into permanent housing and services.

As such, in order to address the short-term problems, we support the Mayor's proposed \$20 million dollars to build emergency shelters throughout the City, with a minimum of 15 up and running by January 2019. However, we must emphasize that these resources for such temporary solutions should be a path toward a permanent housing solution and should not divert existing capital resources away from the construction of permanent homes.

According to the most recent estimates, there are approximately 400 homeless individuals in Koreatown, one of the largest densities of homelessness in the City. Since SCANPH's main office is in Koreatown, we know firsthand that most publicly-

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owned land in Koreatown is predominantly 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, 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 end homelessness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Greenlee".

Alan Greenlee
Executive Director
SCANPH

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May 16, 2019