



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

Administrative Offices

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May 31, 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:

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 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.

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 pledged its support to government 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. We agree that the City needs a short-term strategy to get individuals off the street and into permanent housing and services as we know that without housing and other basic needs met, people like our Corpsmembers will not be able to take the Next Steps they need to take to succeed in the working world. In order to address the short-term problems, the Mayor has announced \$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; the Corps is responsible for much of this work throughout the City and is very supportive and at-the-ready to assist in providing these extra services.

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. 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 need to participate throughout the City if we are to achieve the mandates of Proposition HHH and Measure H.

Sincerely,

Wendy Butts
Chief Executive Officer