



CHIRLA

Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights

June 29, 2018

Los Angeles City Council
John Ferraro Council Chamber
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: COUNCIL FILE 18-0392 - CRISIS AND BRIDGE HOUSING FACILITY - (SUPPORT)

Dear Council President Herb Wesson,

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), I am writing to voice our strong support for the potential Crisis and Bridge Housing Facility to be located at 682 South Vermont Avenue.

Founded in 1986, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), is a California leader, with national presence, who serves the immigrant community through civic engagement, community education, organizing, advocacy, and the provision of legal immigration services. Our mission is to achieve a just society fully inclusive of all.

Currently the City of Los Angeles is witnessing a sharp increase of individuals living on the streets, and while we know there is not one sole factor that contributes to homelessness, increasing rent prices and cost of living have been a major contributor. In Los Angeles, there are 25,000 individuals living on the streets, with 400 in Koreatown alone. While many of these individuals spend their day on the streets, there are also college students, children, families, people with jobs, who hide being homeless.

Additionally, the city of Los Angeles growing homeless population includes one group that is not so visible – immigrants. Our immigrant communities often face additional barriers that increase their possibility of homelessness. The unknowns many immigrants face in this country, language barrier, for some lack of legal status, cultural differences, and many more challenges, make our immigrant community less susceptible to ask for help.

In response to this crisis citizens of Los Angeles took action and in 2016 voted for Proposition HHH to provide the City of Los Angeles with \$275 million dollars to address this crisis, and in 2017 passed Measure H to mitigate this problem. Mayor Eric Garcetti then followed and approved \$20 million for the 2018-2019 budget to fund temporary shelters in all 15 districts. Funding this temporary housing is the first step to addressing this crisis.

CHIRLA welcomes this action of a potential bridge home, it is important to respond with humanity and care for those who for various reasons do not have the privilege to have a roof over their head. We understand that there is not one sole solution moving forward to solve the crisis of homelessness, and this shelter will not end homelessness in the entire city of Los Angeles, however it is a step forward. We recognize the complexity of the problem and are aware that the placement of a bridge home in any community will cause potential conflict, but we also believe our human value should be prioritized above everything else. We believe the 'homeless problem' is a moral issue we cannot turn a blind eye, and must act now. As a result, we write to voice our strong support for the Crisis and Bridge Housing Facility to be located within District 10, welcome the examination of alternative sites, community input,



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and a commission on Koreatown homelessness to oversee the shelter.

Thank you for your consideration should you have any questions please contact Mariana Magaña Gamero at mmagana@chirla.org.

Respectfully,

Joseph Villela
Director of Policy

Mariana Magaña Gamero
Policy Advocate

CC: Gilbert Cedillo, District 1, Los Angeles City Council
Paul Krekorian, District 2, Los Angeles City Council
Bob Blumenfield, District 3, Los Angeles City Council
David Ryu, District 4, Los Angeles City Council
Paul Koretz, District 5, Los Angeles City Council
Nury Martinez, District 6, Los Angeles City Council
Monica Rodriguez, District 7, Los Angeles City Council
Marqueece Harris-Dawson, District 8, Los Angeles City Council
Curren D. Price, Jr., District 9, Los Angeles City Council
Mike Bonin, District 11, Los Angeles City Council
Mitchell Englander, District 12, Los Angeles City Council
Mitch O'Farrell, District 13, Los Angeles City Council
Jose Huizar, District 14, Los Angeles City Council
Joe Buscaino, District 15, Los Angeles City Council



June 29, 2018

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

ITEM NO. 18-0392

Dear City Council President Wesson and Council members,

Four years ago, KIWA partnered with the Little Tokyo Service Center to develop affordable housing for low-income Angelenos, right here in Koreatown. Many of Casa Yonde's residents are formerly unhoused individuals and families, many with special needs. We have been able to build a vibrant multiracial community that includes and embraces those who were unfortunate enough to have experienced homelessness.

When the Bridge Home shelter was announced in early May, we, too, were surprised at the inadequate process and lack of mindful decision-making. Our city leaders could have better ensured the project's success by including community organizations in the process. At the same time, we recognize how urgent the Los Angeles homelessness crisis is and we are heartened that our city leaders are committed to act.

Permanent supportive housing is the most effective way to end homelessness, but this can take years to plan, finance, and build. Meanwhile, our unhoused neighbors are suffering and their health worsening with every night on the streets. We can provide temporary shelter and services now while continuing to prioritize the development of permanent supportive housing.

KIWA is in favor of a process to determine the best site for a shelter in Koreatown, and in every district. We ask for a mindful process, including but not limited to site selection, that welcomes community insights to ensure the success of the Bridge Home project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexandra Suh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alexandra Suh
Executive Director



Eric (Roderico) Villanueva <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

Fwd: 18-0392 CD10

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>

Fri, Jun 29, 2018 at 3:17 PM

To: "Eric (Roderico) Villanueva" <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>, Gloria Pinon <gloria.pinon@lacity.org>

Please see email below.

--

Anna Martinez

Office of the City Clerk

200 N. Spring St., Rm. 360

Los Angeles, CA 90012

213-978-1025

213-978-1027 - FAX

Mail Stop 160-01



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Yaehee Kim** <yaehee@elitehour.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 29, 2018 at 3:15 PM

Subject: RE:18-0392 CD10

To: cityclerk@lacity.org, Patrice.lattimore@lacity.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, lacityatty@lacity.org, controller.galperin@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org

no shelter on 682 s vermont without public hearing

682 S vermont is way small of space to accommodate homeless numbers in the area and this gesture by the mayor is only a show for his election purpose.

The business owners in the area will be the ones whom will bear the cost of loss if the shelter operation fails.

How can the city push for such an important agenda without offering proper public hearing process by selling out homeless community.

Mr Garcetti, remember this kind of your Don Quixote like malpolitical maneuver may costs you the election.



too close to school.jpg

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