

May 21, 2018

Dear Council President Herb Wesson:

As a responsible citizen who cares about all people, I am alarmed at your lack of respect in your treatment of the residents and stakeholders in Koreatown. This issue about a Temporary Homeless Shelter in Koreatown could have been handled in a far different manner. Had you sought input from the residents and other stakeholders, we could have been your best allies, instead you have attempted to bully the Koreatown community with the power of your office which is now back-firing on you.

After the press conference on May 2, 2018, announcing the 682 S. Vermont site as the first Temporary Homeless Shelter to go up per Mayor Garcetti, there has been a huge lack of communication causing great confusion. Back in March 2018, the City Council voted and decided to make the first Temporary Homeless Shelter at El Pueblo near Olvera Street, but I guess per the Mayor and yourself, the Koreatown Temporary Homeless Shelter will be the first under the new "A Bridge Home" plan.

When asked by Korean Media how the 682 S. Vermont site was selected, you said, it was because it was the only site in your district that was available. When asked if there would be any public hearings your response was verbatim "no, no, no, that is there is NOT going to be a public hearing where it relates to this, we are going to put a temporary facility here..." (on my FB post, listen at 25 seconds).

The reporters found other publicly owned sites in CD10, as the following:

5032003903 4023 MARLTON AVE
4205035900 LA CIENEGA BLVD/BALLONA CREEK
5061014900 4600 W WASHINGTON BLVD
5071025903 4601 W WASHINGTON BLVD
5502025900 601 S VERMONT AVE.

When the Korean Media came back to you with the information that there is other City owned property available in your district, you changed your story and said it was because Koreatown had the highest concentration of homeless in your district, with 400 homeless. Initially, I thought you are probably correct with that statement since Koreatown has the second highest population density in the United States after Manhattan, NY. However, since there are 1,508 total homeless population in CD10 per 2017 LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), I see the possibility of Koreatown not being the highest concentration of homeless in CD10, and since honesty is not your strong suit, we demand to see the actual numbers and locations of the homeless within CD10.

Tonight, as I write this letter to you as someone who supports a Temporary Homeless Shelter in CD10 where it makes the most sense, where there is the greatest need. Your numbers of homeless in CD10- Koreatown being around 400 is not accurate. Your office provided us numbers from LAHSA, which I am attaching as a copy that says that there are 368. HOWEVER,

after careful review of the map your office provided, I can see that the numbers for the Homeless are not all within CD10. Your reason for selecting the 682 S. Vermont as having the greatest concentration in your district is now being called into question.

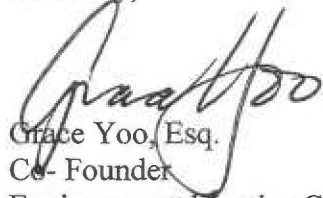
The Koreatown community DEMANDS your office provide accurate numbers. We are tired of your antics of hide and divide. The vast majority of the residents and stakeholders in Koreatown are not opposed to a Temporary Homeless Shelter. We are opposed to your disrespect of the community and your thinking you can dictate whatever you want. We are concerned that "A Bridge Home" has not been given the DEEP DIVE that it deserves. We do not want another RecycLA fiasco which you admitted could have been handled better. We have lives at stake, the homeless as well as the residents and stakeholders, we need the City to have vetted all possible aspects so that we run an efficient and safe shelter for the homeless and their neighbors.

Mayor Garcetti and you stating that there will be 24/7 LAPD presence at the temporary homeless shelters, rather than give comfort, concerns me as another statement that is not viable, nor the best use of our LAPD officers' time. I would think professionals that are best equipped to provide services for the homeless should to be available 24/7, not police officers whom I think are better suited to protect and serve in a different capacity than watching over the temporary homeless shelters.

A Bridge Home, sounds like a great idea, why must you RUSH and LIE, to get it accomplished? Your providing your constituents with data should not be difficult. You are making the decisions of where to place the temporary homeless shelters based on facts and data sets, correct? If not, are they for arbitrary and capricious reasons that can not be justified?

Do the RIGHT THING, share the data, and stop trying to hide!

Sincerely,



Grace Yoo, Esq.
Co- Founder

Environmental Justice Collaborative

Los Angeles Continuum of Care
Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count
By City/Community

Wilshire Center-Koreatown

Hover over census tract to view details.



The data excludes the cities of Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena.

Select a City/Community

Wilshire Center-Koreatown

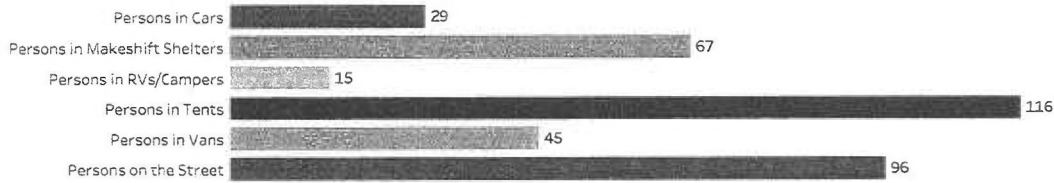
Select Year

- 2016
- 2017

Total
368

Unsheltered (w/o Youth Count)	Sheltered
368	0

Unsheltered Persons 100%



Sheltered Persons 0%



The census tracts above were mutually agreed upon by the above jurisdiction and LAHSA. LA Continuum of Care excludes Glendale, Pasadena, and Long Beach COCs.

Opt in data may not equal the total for the city council districts, supervisorial districts, service planning areas, or the total Los Angeles Continuum of Care. The totals for these regions are statistical estimates.

*Unsheltered data combines homeless persons found outside with the estimate of persons residing in cars, vans, campers/RVs, tents and other encampments. Demographic survey interviews conducted with 4,946 homeless persons from January to February 2016 determined these estimates. Count does not include persons in domestic violence shelters. The data does not include unaccompanied minors, transitional age youth, and young families experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

**Sheltered homeless persons includes individuals, families, and unaccompanied minors sleeping in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe havens that are located within the boundaries of the community on the night of the Homeless Count. Any programs located within this area, including those in using vouchers to stay in motels and hotels will be reflected in the total.

Street Count data includes homeless persons found outside, including persons found residing in cars, vans, campers/RVs, tents and makeshift shelters. The following conversion factors were used to estimate the number of persons living in cars, vans, campers/RVs, tents and makeshift shelters if enumerators encountered homeless persons living in these environments. Individuals: Cars = 1.52, Vans = 1.77, RV's = 2.05, Tents = 1.69 and Makeshift Shelters = 1.92. Family Members: Cars = 2.96, Vans = 3.46, RV's = 3.52, Tents = 3.78 and Makeshift Shelters = 3.69. Demographic survey interviews conducted with 4,808 homeless persons from February to March 2017 determined these conversion factors for the average number of homeless persons in cars, vans, campers/RVs, tents and makeshift shelters.

References: <https://www.hudexchange.info/hdx/guides/plc-hic/>

Date Updated: August 29, 2017

Wilshire Center-Koreatown

Hover over census tract to view details.

