

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

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Date: 02/25/2018

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Summary: The growing homeless crisis in Los Angeles underscores the need for an expanded inventory and wider variety of housing options for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, such as emergency shelters, rapid re-housing programs, and transitional and permanent supportive housing. With Measure HHH, we have committed to building 10,000 permanent supportive housing units over the next decade, but it is imperative that the city addresses the complex needs of low-income and homeless individuals and families who are in critical need of short-term and long-term housing at the present moment.

Motels are similar to residential structures and can be rapidly retrofitted and used as transitional or supportive housing. If the city could reduce the obstacles that would otherwise delay such a conversion and streamline the approval process, a significant number of the city's homeless individuals and families would have increased access to stable, temporary housing complete with on/off-site supportive services, such as mental health treatment, substance abuse counseling, and vocational training. Additionally, converting underutilized motels to transitional and supportive housing would guarantee steady monthly income for a minimum of 15 years for motel owners who frequently struggle with high vacancy rates. Upon the end of the lease terms, the motel would revert back to its previous use without undergoing an additional approval process.

The city must invest in diverse, cost-effective housing solutions to address temporary and chronic homelessness while awaiting construction of new permanent supportive housing developments. Using motels for transitional or supportive housing would allow thousands of people experiencing homelessness to be stably housed during their transition into permanent housing, all the while providing a unique economic opportunity for struggling motel owners. For these reasons, the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council supports CF 17-1432.