

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: NoHo Neighborhood Council

Name: Peter Haderlein

Phone Number: (818) 795-6992

Email: peter.haderlein.nohonc@gmail.com

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

Date of NC Board Action: 03/10/2021

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 03/24/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-0113

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The NoHo Neighborhood Council unanimously supports Council File 21-0113, which would expand Project Roomkey using money provided by FEMA under executive order from the Biden Administration. The promise of full federal reimbursements promises to subsidize the expansion of a program that has an excellent chance of using existing housing stock to bridge the gap to new Permanent Supportive Housing and Bridge Housing options for persons experiencing homelessness. The city should take advantage of the resources to fund case management services and outreach efforts and broaden the network of participating locations. We urge the council to call on the County Board of Supervisors and LAHSA to expand the project under an increased budget.

President
Paul Storale

Vice President
Maria Sosyan

Secretary
Cheryl Tenbush

Treasurer
James Askew

Sgt. At Arms
Allan K. Salinas



Mary Backos
Jeffrey Brown
Paula June Cantu
Teresa Cicala
Sara Cravens
Ken Dorfman
Misha'el Elie
Andre Gaona
Peter Haderlein
Stephanie Jaeger
Rob McGrath
Todd Mouser
Dima Overtchenko
Allyson Sereboff
Joanna Stein
Russell Wolff

Community Impact Statement in opposition of City Council File 21-0031

Expansion of Project Roomkey

March 10, 2021

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

The NoHo Neighborhood Council supports Council File 21-0113, which would expand Project Roomkey using money provided by FEMA under executive order from the Biden Administration.

Project Roomkey is a Los Angeles program started at the onset of the pandemic to house 15,000 especially vulnerable people experiencing homelessness as an alternative to crowded shelters where COVID could readily spread. At its height, the program housed 4,329 people and the program was originally set to sunset in March, 2021. Even now, Los Angeles hotel occupancy is only 42%, and there is ample space to find people temporary lodging.

In January of this year, President Biden issued an executive action directing FEMA to reimburse cities for 100% of what they spend on “non-congregate shelters” through September 2021, including back-pay for expenditures made prior to this executive action¹. Prior to the order, federal funds could only be used to reimburse 75% of expenses for emergency non-congregate housing, which included staffing empty hotel and motel rooms with trained outreach workers and paying rents on the rooms. Project Roomkey, while a worthwhile effort for housing folks as quickly as possible, fell well-short of its promised goals and was underutilized as the result of staffing shortages, limited buy-in from hotel owners worried, and tight state and local budgets². The promise of full federal reimbursements promises to subsidize the expansion of a program that has an excellent chance of using existing housing stock to bridge the gap to new Permanent Supportive Housing and Bridge Housing options for persons experiencing homelessness. The city should take advantage of the resources to fund case management services and outreach efforts and broaden the network of participating locations. We urge the council to call on the County Board of Supervisors and LAHSA to expand the project under an increased budget, even if faced with the cash flow hurdle that federal reimbursement programs create.³

Sincerely, Paul Storale, President of the NoHo Neighborhood Council

¹ <https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2021-01-27/manna-from-heaven-l-a-officials-say-biden-funding-could-get-thousands-of-homeless-off-streets>

² <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-09-22/homeless-people-hotels-project-roomkey-phasing-out>

³ <https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2021-03-05/l-a-county-wont-expand-program-to-shelter-homeless-people-in-hotels>