

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: East Hollywood Neighborhood Council (EHNC)

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(15) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/18/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 04/19/2022

Update to a Previous Input: Yes

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-1340

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council would like to voice its support - with conditions - of Council File 21-1340, which moves for the City Council to instruct the CAO to report back on opportunities for renewing and expanding Project Roomkey, with a goal of providing interim non-congregate shelter for tens of thousands of people; as well as the opportunities for additional uses for reimbursable funds for non-congregate shelters, including master leasing of hotels and motels, including those with fewer than 100 rooms, and vacant apartment units. With the homelessness crisis and the pandemic putting many of our city's most vulnerable in even more vulnerable situations, Project Roomkey has served as an effective tool for providing interim housing, as we seek to find more permanent solutions for the city's unhoused population. However, we have also seen ways in which Project Roomkey has been flawed. For this reason, the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council would like to voice its conditional support for this motion to look into ways to expand and improve on Project Roomkey, with particular emphasis on the need to consult with members of the unhoused community and service providers and report back on ways in which Project Roomkey operations could be improved and made more successful. Additionally, we at the EHNC would like to recognize that temporary options such as Project Roomkey can only be a part of the approach to this issue, and should be taken on alongside a concerted investment of funds by the city into more permanent solutions like master leasing.



The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

04/13/2022

Re: Council File [CF-21-1340](#) Project Roomkey / Interim Non-Congregate Shelters / 100 Percent Reimbursement / Executive Action / FEMA / Master Leasing / Hotels and Motels / Vacant Apartment Units / COVID-19 Pandemic

Position: Support

Dear Councilmembers,

The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council would like to voice its support - with conditions - of Council File 21-1340, which moves for the City Council to instruct the CAO to report back on opportunities for renewing and expanding Project Roomkey, with a goal of providing interim non-congregate shelter for tens of thousands of people; as well as the opportunities for additional uses for reimbursable funds for non-congregate shelters, including master leasing of hotels and motels, including those with fewer than 100 rooms, and vacant apartment units.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Project Room key, the central initiative of a multi-agency effort by the City, the County, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to temporarily house more than 7,000 vulnerable people in a period of a few months, secured more than 4,000 rooms in 37 hotels between the City and County of Los Angeles, which served more than 6,000 people. Project Room key was primarily reimbursed and funded with federal CARES Act relief money, with an original deadline of December 2020 to spend those funds.

However, on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 President Biden Issued an executive action directing FEMA to reimburse cities for 100% of what they spend on non-congregate shelters through April 2022. Previously, the FEMA reimbursements were through September 2021.

With the homelessness crisis and the pandemic putting many of our city's most vulnerable in even more vulnerable situations, Project Roomkey has served as an effective tool for providing interim housing, as we seek to find more permanent solutions for the city's unhoused

population. However, we have also seen ways in which Project Roomkey has been flawed. The project's failure to find permanent housing for its participants, [as reported by KCRW](#), has led to further displacement and frustration for many unhoused Angelenos. Additionally, participants have described "systemic problems with the program, problems that often reminded residents of prison and/or the shelter system, particularly the ways in which these institutions seek to control residents' time and space." ([Knock LA](#)). These and other concerns voiced by groups like the [UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy](#) have made it clear that Project Roomkey is in dire need of improvements, if it is to be effective.

For this reason, the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council would like to voice it's conditional support for this motion to look into ways to expand and improve on Project Roomkey, with particular emphasis on the need to consult with members of the unhoused community and service providers and report back on ways in which Project Roomkey operations could be improved and made more successful. Additionally, we at the EHNC would like to recognize that temporary options such as Project Roomkey can only be a part of the approach to this issue, and should be taken on alongside a concerted investment of funds by the city into more permanent solutions like master leasing.

Sincerely,

East Hollywood Neighborhood Council

CC:

Mike Bonin
Nithya Raman