

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Eric Eisenberg

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**Comments for Public Posting:** STATEMENT OF ERIC EISENBERG Dear President Kirkorian and City Council members, I want to clarify what caused me to be abruptly ousted as chairman of the city's Transportation Commission, a post I've held for eight of my ten years as a commissioner. What happened is that I requested the LADOT commission to take no action on the resolution to exempt the Midvale-Pico housing project from CEQA review. It was my position that before we considered the exemption we needed to hear from the Bureau of Engineering and from other experts. As LADOT commissioners we are not experts on land-use and CEQA issues and we needed to be better informed about the consequences of approving an exemption. My call for proceeding with caution and due diligence did not sit well with the powers that be, and so I was fired without being given any explanation for what changed the mind, for example, of Mayor Bass who in August reappointed me to serve on the commission until 2028. But to continue: after reviewing the Midvale-Pico situation in greater detail, I became convinced that a 33-unit homeless project bordering single family residents on two sides should not qualify for a CEQA exemption. This project could be a serious burden on a residential neighborhood. It could be a lifetime burden for a child or senior citizen who are attacked by homeless residents of the project, and it could certainly be the death of many local, small businesses in the area who depend on the city-owned parking lot to accommodate their customers. I believe a careful CEQA review of this project would very likely disclose that the benefits of housing 33 homeless individuals on this site would not outweigh the potential hazards facing the senior citizens and young families living in the surrounding quiet, residential neighborhood, and that, at the very least, a CEQA review would very possibly require that the project implement a number of significant mitigation measures that might make the project almost unworkable. Finally, I leave you with this message: As someone who has been previously involved in projects to house the homeless and provide emergency housing for persons with HIV, I am perfectly willing to work as an intermediary to help find a win-win solution in CD5 that works for the community and for the unhoused as an alternative to the Midvale-Pico project. Thank you for considering my remarks.