



WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
P.O. Box 64370 Los Angeles CA 90064
www.wncla.org (310) 474-2326



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October 2, 2023

Los Angeles City Council
Housing and Homelessness Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org,
Councilmember.lee@lacity.org – Members
mandy.morales@lacity.org,
Clerk.HousingandHomelessness@lacity.org -
Committee Legislative Assistant

RE: Council File 23-1066 / Agenda of Oct. 4, 2023 – Agenda Item 5

Dear Chair Ramen, Vice Chair Blumenfield, and Honorable Committee Members:

This letter is sent on behalf of the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC), representing 80,000 stakeholders. The proposed homeless interim housing project impacts our stakeholders. As you will note on your agenda, no Community Impact Statement related to this project has been filed. That is because there has not been the opportunity for the WNC Board to hear and consider this item. We had been assured by our Council office that the report from the CAO's office would not be forthcoming for some time and that they are now surprised to find the item scheduled for this week's Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting.

As part of doing our due diligence on this matter, we requested all the local stakeholder groups to reach out to their community members to do outreach and implement surveys to take the pulse of the community so that we could consider all relevant information when adopting our position in order to provide well-founded advice to the Council. We understand and take very seriously our responsibility to provide sound advice to the City to meet our duty as defined under the City Charter.

We request that your Committee delay consideration of the motion to fund the Midvale/Pico interim housing project until after our Neighborhood Council has formally considered the item. We have this project on our Council's October 12, 2023 agenda. It has been heard in our Land Use Committee where we received a large number of public comments. The CD 5 office is scheduled to make a presentation to the full Board on October 12th.

The Westside Neighborhood Council respectfully calls upon your Committee to grant our Council and your body additional time to consider the Midvale/Pico location, as well as alternatives that have been offered for consideration since the Midvale/Pico location was announced. All decision-makers involved should have a complete and full body of information to consider when allocating much-needed dollars to our City's campaign to address the challenges of bringing the unhoused into shelter – whether interim or permanent.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope to have the opportunity to report to you in the future on the outcome of the Westside Neighborhood Council's recommendations. We also trust that you will have the opportunity to review the bigger picture to address the need for cost-effective interim housing in the Westside, and particularly in CD 5. We seek to be part of the solution supportive of the decisions made by City Hall. We want those decisions to be wise, evidence-based solutions.

Sincerely,

Terri Tippit

Terri Tippit
Chair

Cc: Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, CD 5
Zachary Warma, CD 5 Housing and Homelessness Policy Director
George Hakopiants, CD5 District Director
Fernando Morales, CD 5 Deputy Chief of Staff
Vanessa Saldana, CD 5 Field Deputy