

2023-10-20 City Council.mp4

CM Kerkorian: [00:00:01] 1930 that was called special by Council member Yaroslavsky.

CM Yaroslavsky: [00:00:06] Thank you, Council president. First, I want to acknowledge everyone here today, both in support and in opposition to this project. I know many of you have taken time off of work or had to arrange childcare and come downtown now for several meetings, and I know you would much rather not have to do that. It speaks volumes about how much you care about your neighborhood that you're here today. For those who are opposed to the project, I want you to know that I hear you, and I know many of you are very concerned and frustrated. I know those concerns come from a very real place. I've said this to a lot of you personally, but it bears repeating. I'm committed to doing right by you and the entire neighborhood. **For the businesses on Pico, you have my word that we're going to secure additional parking before we break ground on this project.** And to the entire community, you have my word that we're going to work with the community, LAPD, and the service provider to develop a robust neighborhood security plan. And if it becomes clear after this project opens that it isn't working, we will make any necessary adjustments or if absolutely necessary, we'll shut it down. But let me be absolutely clear. We need these beds. I wouldn't be doing this if we didn't. I know that 33 beds doesn't seem like a lot. It's because, in all honesty, it's not. It's not nearly enough considering the emergency we're in right now. But it is 33 more than have ever been built in Council District five for general population adults, and they are absolutely critical.

CM Yaroslavsky: [00:01:34] I wouldn't be here fighting hard to build them if they weren't. Of the 16,000 interim beds currently operational in the city of Los Angeles, only one half of 1% are in Council District five, one half of 1% that's less than 100. And none of those are for serve the general population. So if you're an adult between 18 and 55, we have absolutely nothing for you in Council District five. What this means for my constituents, not only in Westwood but across the entire district, is that when we are trying to resolve an encampment and bring people inside, off the street and into housing, it's nearly impossible. That's why, as a candidate for this office, I ran on this very issue. Building housing for our homeless neighbors is and has to be a top priority. And I haven't been shy about it. Colleagues, I've spoken with many of you, and I know you all understand how important it is to have these beds and the critical role they play in addressing the crisis of unsheltered homelessness. And while I understand that a lot of

people across the city don't want this type of housing in their neighborhoods, we've seen time and again that when you do it right, it helps us bring people indoors, keep our streets clear of encampments, and meaningfully address the emergency on our streets. And that's why I'm asking for your vote today. Thank you so much.

CM Kerkorian: [00:02:50] All right. Thank you very much. The members of the audience, please do not disrupt the proceedings of this council with shouting out clapping noise, please. We have work to do here, and we won't, uh, have that sort of interruption. So that item is now before us. Do any other members wish to be heard? Seeing none. Let's go ahead and open the roll. Close the roll and tabulate the votes.

Speaker3: [00:03:16] 14 ayes.