

## FoxNewsStory.mp4

**Fox 11 Chelsea Edwards:** [00:00:00] Appears to be moving forward. This space next to me, as you can see. No longer a parking lot for all of the customers who go to the surrounding businesses in this area. This is now officially - this fence just went up today. Dozens of frustrated neighbors and business owners rallied in opposition of a controversial interim homeless housing project, which they say will destroy their neighborhood. It's s a horrible plan.

**Natalie Torbati:** [00:00:24] And it's short sighted.

**Fox 11 Chelsea Edwards:** [00:00:26] The 33 bed Midvale Housing project is slated to be built on this city owned parking lot on Pico Boulevard and Midvale Avenue. Touted by the city as a link between street homelessness and permanent housing, members of the Midvale Pico Coalition say they're all for housing solutions, but not projects this small and not in the middle of business districts and neighborhoods.

**Natalie Torbati:** [00:00:45] We fully support the city's commitment to provide homeless housing. However, we do not believe this is the best location for it. In fact, we found two alternative locations within our district that would house more people and cost less to the taxpayers.

**Brian Collesano/Saucy Bird:** [00:01:01] This isn't a Nimby issue, even though it literally is in people's backyards. This is a business issue. This is a public safety issue.

**Fox 11 Chelsea Edwards:** [00:01:08] Across the street, Brian Collesano recently opened fast casual Saucy Bird after spending the last year getting approvals from the city.

**Brian Collesano/Saucy Bird:** [00:01:15] So now, after getting over all these hurdles and getting through the challenges and making a product that we can be proud of to have, this is like a real gut punch.

**Ed Jirele/Landlord:** [00:01:24] *This properties are dying. They are going to die.*

**Fox 11 Chelsea Edwards:** [00:01:29] The building's [00:01:30] next door to the site have been in Julie's family for 75 years since the project was announced. He hasn't been able to find new renters.

**Ed Jirele/Landlord:** [00:01:37] There's been a major financial impact, obviously, but the loss of all the rental income and no, no prospects for leasing it again. So it's basically going to be a dead building.

**Fox 11 Chelsea Edwards:** [00:01:50] Both owners say the loss of this parking lot will be devastating to their businesses, pointing out that council member Katie Yaroslavsky previously said the parking situation would be addressed before breaking ground for the businesses on Pico.

**CM Yaroslavsky:** [00:02:02] You have my word that we're going to secure additional parking before we break ground on this project.

**Fox 11 Chelsea Edwards:** [00:02:06] The controversial project was approved by the city council in October. Months later, a group called Fix the City filed a lawsuit attempting to stop it, alleging that the city unlawfully used emergency powers to fast-track approval of the project. Despite the ongoing litigation, public outcry and proposed alternate sites, this fence was erected around the site Monday, indicating that the project is one step closer to reality.

**Natalie Torbati:** [00:02:29] The community is very upset. Everyone is extremely angry. We have not seen Katie. We've not heard from Katie.

**Fox 11 Chelsea Edwards:** [00:02:38] Now. We reached out to Katie Yaroslavsky's office for comment. We've not yet heard back. I do want to note there was a city rep who was out here earlier this evening. He was talking to business owners and people who were at the businesses, saying that their customers could now park over across Westwood Boulevard at the Guitar Center. Business owners, though, say that is just not a viable option for their customers. This is a story we will continue to follow reporting live in West L.A.. I'm Chelsea Edwards. I'll send it back to you in the studio.