

Fix The City, Inc.

Press Release

September 3, 2024

COURT ORDERS THE CITY TO STOP CONSTRUCTION OF HOMELESS INTERIM HOUSING ON CITY PARKING LOT AT PICO AND MIDVALE

Los Angeles – Today, LA Superior Court Judge Kin ordered the City of Los Angeles to cease construction on the Midvale-Pico Interim Housing Project by granting a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) sought by local businesses that relied on parking lot 707, located across from the former Westside Pavilion. The lot was abruptly closed on August 19, 2024.

Over two dozen businesses, employing more than 200 people, depended on this parking lot as the only off-street ADA parking option and as the sole parking available during the critical dinnertime period. The lot's closure has caused severe harm to these businesses, potentially forcing several to shut down.

The businesses took legal action after Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky failed to keep her promise to provide replacement parking before the city began construction. Instead, businesses were notified at 4:35 PM on Friday, August 16, 2024, that their essential parking lot would be closed the following Monday, without consideration for the devastating impact on the businesses and their employees.

“It is unfortunate that local businesses had to go to court to save their livelihoods,” said Mike Eveloff of Fix The City (FTC). “They were left with no other choice. It remains unclear why Councilmember Yaroslavsky would proceed with the project after failing to honor her commitment to secure replacement parking first.” At the October 20, 2023 City Council meeting, Yaroslavsky unequivocally stated:

“For the businesses on Pico, you have my word that we’re going to secure additional parking before we break ground on this Project.”

Fix The City’s lawsuit challenging the project will be heard in a few months.

Laura Lake of Fix The City added: “Placing this project on such a critical lot goes against Mayor Bass’s Executive Directive 4, which aims to remove barriers for small businesses, not create them. We urge Councilmember Yaroslavsky and Mayor Bass to reconsider and focus on supporting, not jeopardizing, local businesses.”

The parking lot in question was secured in 1990 by then-Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky, who explicitly found that the need for this parking justified taking the property through eminent domain. He was right then, and with increased parking restrictions on Pico and in the surrounding neighborhoods, the need is even greater today.

All FTC and business owner lawsuit filings, as well as video of the Yaroslavsky promise not to start the project, are available on the Fix The City website at www.fixthecity.org.

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