

Communication from Public

Name: Julie Farr

Date Submitted: 08/25/2021 06:23 AM

Council File No: 19-0126-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council, We are vehemently opposed to the attempt the City is trying correct the PATH lease (3210 Riverside Blvd) and make it a permanent shelter. The people of Los Feliz supported the shelter because it was TEMPORARY and would be turned into a senior center after 3 years (see excerpt from Ryu letter below). The City must keep its promise. Multiple City officials promised a fixed 3 year lease, with conversion to senior center after that. However, as written, the lease has no end. First it is a 3 year lease, then it has 2 automatic one year extension, and then converts to a month to month arrangement. However, this infinite lease exceeds the City's authority, and a judge has noticed this issue. In an attempt to fix the lease, councilmember Raman has submitted a motion that only partially corrects things. The motion is item #36 on tomorrow's council agenda (copy attached). It addresses the 2 extensions, but leaves the month to month provisions in place. It is a rushed attempt to fix the lease, but really needs to be revised and the public given more time to review and comment. Note, in addition, the public has not been given adequate notice regarding this motion. There is a 72 hour requirement which was not given. And that is NOT adequate. Any changes must be taken to the residents of Los Feliz. If the city does not keep its promises, how can we rely on them? Note that the city also promised they would keep the area around the shelter clean and safe (see attached) They have not. There are continual encampments attached and near the shelter; there was an RV site with several parked cars with chairs, bikes, etc out across the street. We own the apartment complex on Los Feliz, basically next door to the shelter and have experienced vandalism, homeless on our property, chasing and harassing tenants. Tenants no longer feel safe and several have moved. Sincerely Julie Farr and Stan Dorobek Fountain View Apartments 3640 - 3730 Los Feliz Blvd Excerpt from Rye letter) Since the Bridge Home Program has a limited time frame of three years, there are additional opportunities to utilize the site in the long term. Therefore, I introduced another motion, (CF#14-1191-S1), which instructs the Department of Recreation and Parks to work with relevant City departments to determine if the same site on Riverside Drive has potential to expand the existing Griffith Park Adult Community Center. This popular community center would

be a vital resource for the City's fastest growing population, seniors, in addition to serving the surrounding community.



A Bridge Home

Emergency Temporary Housing

FAQs

What is bridge housing?

Bridge housing is a temporary facility constructed on City-owned properties to quickly bring homeless Angelenos off the streets and help them rebuild their lives. Bridge housing offers 24/7 security and on-site services like case management, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and housing placement to help residents stabilize their lives, move on to permanent housing, and stay off the streets for good.

Why was my neighborhood selected for bridge housing?

If we're going to end homelessness, we need to create solutions in every community – which is why the Mayor's budget funds temporary bridge housing in all 15 Council Districts. Each bridge housing site is selected based on its proximity to dense homeless encampments. These sites are specifically designed to serve the homeless population that already lives in your community, and help clean up encampments in your neighborhood. Every Council District that builds temporary bridge housing will receive additional sanitation funds to restore spaces that were previously encampment sites into safe, clean, public passageways.

Who is going to live in the new housing?

The City is deploying teams of outreach workers to engage homeless Angelenos who live around the A Bridge Home site to ensure that people moving into the temporary bridge housing are already residents of the neighborhood. The only qualification for people to move in is their proximity to the site. Each site is specifically designed to support the needs of the population nearby – whether they are women, men, or senior citizens. Everyone will have their housing needs assessed as they come on site, and their case manager will work with them to move them into a more permanent solution.

Will A Bridge Home bring homeless people into my neighborhood?

No. This temporary bridge housing is designed specifically to serve people who live in encampments in the community surrounding the site, who will be identified during a period of outreach. The City is bringing in additional sanitation and enforcement services to ensure that the streets surrounding the sites remain safe and clean.

How are you deciding where to put the bridge housing?

The City is primarily looking at lots it already owns – that are at least 20,000 square feet in size and located near dense homeless encampments. But before a site is officially chosen, it is assessed by engineers to ensure that it's an appropriate place to put temporary housing, and that it's equipped with the necessary water, power, and sewage connections.

What will the sites look like?

Each Council District is committed to creating a site that reflects the spirit and aesthetic of the neighborhood where it stands. They are being designed to incorporate the input of service providers, to optimize access to services, and create a comfortable community space that helps clients stabilize and get back on their feet. The structures themselves will be trailers or platformed spaces covered in canvas.

How long will they be open?

Three years.

What are the hours of operation for A Bridge Home sites?

The sites are operated 24 hours a day; 7 days a week, with staff and security on site at all times.

How long do you expect people to stay in the bridge housing?

Our goal is to move people out of the bridge housing and into more permanent housing as quickly as possible – meaning that beds could turn over as many as four times in a year. But how long someone stays in the temporary bridge housing is based on their need. The sites will be staffed with housing navigators, mental health professionals, and anti-addiction specialists who will help clients get back on their feet as quickly as possible. But we won't ask anyone to leave before they're stable.

Will our neighborhood be less safe with this bridge housing?

No. All of the sites will be fully staffed with 24/7 on-site security, and City staff will closely monitor each site to help ensure safety and cleanliness. Our County partners are ramping up the deployment of outreach workers and supportive services to local homeless residents, to help them transition into the temporary bridge housing, and later into permanent homes. With the City's additional funding for sanitation services, existing encampments will be converted into clean, safe public spaces for all residents to enjoy.

Are you going to have services on site?

Yes! The City and County have partnered to fund services for all residents of A Bridge Home sites that will help people move out of the temporary emergency housing and into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Each resident will have a case manager, as well as mental health, housing, and substance abuse support – not to mention three meals a day, storage, showers, restrooms, a place for pets, and 24/7 security.

Are residents of A Bridge Home sites required to be sober?

No. Entry to the site is determined by how close someone's tent is to the site – not whether they're sober. However, each site will be fully equipped with mental health and anti-addiction specialists who will help new residents start on the path to sobriety.

How are you going to make sure the encampments don't come back?

The City is committed to making sure that the streets surrounding new A Bridge Home sites stay safe and clean. Homeless Angelenos will still be able to put up their tents between the hours of 9pm and 6am, but during the daytime, the City is establishing special enforcement zones to ensure that tents are taken down.

Are you criminalizing homelessness?

This effort is in no way intended to criminalize people who live on the streets. We cannot – and will not – arrest our way out of the homelessness crisis. People in desperate need of help should not be punished for their circumstances. The City's priority is bringing people indoors – not issuing citations. However, if homeless residents choose not to take down their tents during the daytime, and receive citations as a result, the Mayor's Office will connect them with the HEART program, which gives homeless Angelenos the option of doing community service or participating in substance abuse counseling in lieu of paying fines.

This doesn't sound like a permanent solution. What about everyone who doesn't get into A Bridge Home site?

Thanks to the voters of L.A., the City is getting to work building thousands of units of supportive housing for our most vulnerable homeless neighbors over the next decade. But people who are living on the streets tonight can't wait for new housing to come online. They need help now. That's why A Bridge Home is helping connect people to permanent solutions today.

How else can I help my homeless neighbors?

No one can do everything to solve homelessness, but everyone can do something. The most important thing you can do is say "yes" to supportive housing and bridge housing in your community, and help educate your neighbors about the critical importance of this work. You can also learn more about how you can help at LAMayor.org/HelpHomelessAngelenos.



**To learn more about
'A Bridge Home', visit
www.lamayor.org/bridge-home**

Communication from Public

Name: Sharon Mastro

Date Submitted: 08/25/2021 10:01 AM

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Comments for Public Posting: Our Mayor, Councilmember, and others have stated on multiple occasions that the bridge shelter, located at 3210 and 3248 Riverside Drive, would operate for 3 years and would then be converted to a senior center. However, the city then signed a lease with PATH for 3 years, AND included provisions for 2 automatic extensions, each being one year, and then automatically converting to a month-to-month arrangement thereafter. The lease, as written, exceeds the City's authority, and Recreation and Parks was not party to the lease, but the property upon which the shelter was built is wholly part of Griffith Park. Ms. Raman's office is proposing that the lease be amended to address some of the issues however, her motion does not address the primary issues listed below. First: It's important to note that although the Motion is dated Aug. 18, 2021, the public notice of this motion was posted at 8:00pm Aug. 23, 2021. It is now on today's meeting agenda and scheduled for a vote. This process has failed to provide the public with the 72 hours advance notice, as is required under the Brown Act. Second: Ms. Raman's amendment does not fix the lease term to 3 years. The extensions have been removed, but the month-to-month provisions remain which leaves this lease open to a non-ending term. Third: This motion has not been reviewed by committee. Fourth: Although the Bridge Housing sits on park property, Recreation and Parks have never signed the lease, nor have additional funds been provided to them. The Park Rangers in particular have seen an increased demand however no additional funding has been provided. The city has broken every promise provided to the communities regarding the security and terms surrounding Bridge housing. This location is no different. We were assured this Bridge Housing (homeless shelter) would be in our community for a period of 3 years and would then be converted into a senior center. I respectfully request that the members of this council REJECT the amendments made by Ms. Raman and correct the lease terms to what our community was promised. Thank you, CD4 Resident