

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I have been a resident of the Westwood South of Santa Monica Boulevard community since the mid 1990s. I lived on the 2300 block of Midvale for over 15 years and am outraged by the plan to build transitional/temporary homeless housing on the corner of Midvale and Pico. None of us who are residents are unsympathetic to the terrible crisis of unhoused people in our city, however this is absolutely the wrong location for the proposed project. You have admitted that by necessity there will be a very low bar of entry for unhoused occupants to secure a unit. A high percentage of those will be mentally ill and/or drug and/or alcohol dependent. I'm sure you are not expecting all of those occupants to remain on site 24 hours a day in 10'x10' enclosed spaces. Since no visitors are allowed on site, many of the residents, whether or not mentally ill, will congregate on residential streets and some will arrange to meet prostitutes. Many of the mentally ill will roam the adjacent streets day and night. Since the many drug and alcohol dependent occupants are not allowed to bring their "contraband" into the site, as has been explained, where do you expect them to shoot up, smoke crack or drink a pint? Most certainly their opportunistic drug dealers will conveniently locate near this newly organized customer base on the streets and corners nearby to provide their customers with the fix they need. Then the temporarily housed occupants will select a nearby residential or commercial driveway, yard, lawn, doorway or alleyway where they, day or night, will shoot up, smoke or drink and leave needles, pipes and bottles strewn around the area once they are sober enough to head back to eat or sleep. You have also not addressed how the occupants will have money enough to purchase their needed drugs or alcohol without resorting to confronting area residents or breaking into their homes, businesses or vehicles. These are terribly sad and very predictable consequences of your actions and decisions. Not only have you seriously underestimated the impact on the residential community but you have very seriously underestimated the blight it will cause to the commercial corridor that should be revitalized and thriving, not destroyed. Has there been an economic impact study conducted to determine the huge cost to the city, not just to Pico or District 5? Commercial tenants have already said they will break leases or flee as soon as their leases are up. Building owners

will find it impossible to rent vacant retail spaces. What should be the promise of Pico west of Westwood Blvd. as a thriving commercial corridor conveniently located between two Expo line stops and near the new developments between Westwood and Overland, will become an abandoned devastated commercial corridor to be avoided. By selecting the location at Midvale and Pico you have grossly minimized all the worrisome warning signs the community has easily identified as problems and have intentionally avoided discussing some other very real and dangerous threats that will occur. What has yet to be acknowledged is the guaranteed increase in crime and drugs on the surrounding streets that will result from this project and the blight it will cause on Pico. There must be another location where all your good intentions will have a more positive outcome and much less negative impact. -- Marci R. Baron 2134 Malcolm Avenue