

Communication from Public

Name: Carmyn Govig

Date Submitted: 11/29/2023 12:51 PM

Council File No: 20-0841-S39

Comments for Public Posting: I am a longtime resident of Los Feliz, and can vouch that my voice speaks for many other of Los Feliz' residents. I oppose any expansion of the homeless setup at & near 3210 Riverside Drive, for several reasons; one reason being that WE WERE PROMISED THIS EXACT PARCEL WOULD BE THE SITE OF A MUCH-NEEDED EXPANDED SENIOR CENTER. That particular carrot was dangled in front of our noses in 2019 by then-councilman David Ryu, to manipulate residents' favor of installing the project he was under pressure about, the Bridge shelter. I am a senior, and speak for so many other seniors of Los Feliz/Silver Lake/Atwater Village who are still gathering at the Center made of weak and limited portables across the street (3203 Riverside). Another reason is that the Bridge shelter has proved to be a failure. It has failed in its mission of quickly "bridging" its occupants to permanent housing in any significant numbers. Its record of 20% is a fail, and an expensive one at that. Homelessness and tents continue to fester in the shelter's area, such as along the L.A. River in Griffith Park and beneath the Hyperion Overpass. The proof is in the pudding. Lastly I can vouch that the Bridge shelter has magnetized vagrants and mentally ill to the vicinity; regardless of whether these individuals are residing in the shelter or not. In greatly increased numbers since its opening they are wandering Riverside Drive and Los Feliz Blvd. 24/7, uttering insanity or threats to innocent passersby (including me several times), engaging openly in narcotics use in the Mulholland Fountain parklet, openly dealing drugs near the shelter, and engaging in illicit commerce such as prostitution. I see it every day. The shelter magnetizes this activity to its radius for reasons of both the proclivities of the shelter's population, and the permissiveness that the shelter's presence implies to drug dealers, hookers, etc. (We, the Los Feliz stakeholders, were promised by Ryu and Mayor Garcetti a 24-hour dedicated LAPD patrol in the shelter's vicinity. That turned out to be a lie.) Another reason is that the services stated in the proposal for the parkland's development, i.e. things like "art therapy," "mindfulness mediation classes" and "space for visual art," do not address the root causes of homelessness: (1) SOBRIETY, and (2) WORK. Lack thereof only serves to promulgate and increase homelessness, keeping the situation growing (to the delight of the

homeless industrial complex profiteering off of such stagnancy). The Bridge shelter and now its proposed expanded amenities only stick the homeless with a pacifier; they are not about mandating sobriety nor work skills to rebuild their lives. You are not going to solve vagrancy by giving them art therapy classes. The 30 years I've been a Los Feliz resident I've observed the area of Los Feliz & Riverside Drive, with its rec facilities, Friendship Auditorium, greenery and Griffith Park adjacency, to be an area of great stability. Now read that sentence back, with big emphasis on the word "stability." That beautiful stability - for everyone - has been dealt a severe blow and dangerously compromised, since 2020 by the Bridge shelter's real-life byproducts. A facility with troubled/sensitive occupants, and that draws crime, NEVER should have been placed on parkland, and a few hundred feet away from a nursery/preschool, children playing soccer, vulnerable seniors, and a picnic area full of families and kids. You can change this for the better (give us the new Senior Center WHICH YOU HAD PROMISED US); don't make the situation worse. City Council Committee, COME TO YOUR SENSES!!

Communication from Public

Name: Julie Farr

Date Submitted: 11/29/2023 01:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0841-S39

Comments for Public Posting: We own the apartment building that abuts the shelter and oppose any expansion of the homeless setup at & near 3210 Riverside Drive, for several reasons. One is that we were promised that the site would be turned into a much-needed senior center - that was a KEY reason Los Feliz supported the A Bridge Home. Another reason is that the Bridge shelter has proved to be a failure. It has failed in its mission of quickly "bridging" its occupants to permanent housing in any significant numbers and it is too expensive. Homelessness and tents continue to fester in the shelter's area, such as along the L.A. River in Griffith Park and beneath the Hyperion Overpass. The Bridge shelter has magnetized vagrants and mentally ill to the vicinity; regardless of whether these individuals are residing in the shelter or not. It has brought crime and safety issues to the neighborhood. Many of our tenants have been frightened and/or harassed; we have had items stolen and the trash gone through and left a mess. In greatly increased numbers since its opening people are wandering Riverside Drive and Los Feliz Blvd, uttering insanity or threats to innocent passersby, engaging openly in narcotics use in the Mulholland Fountain, openly dealing drugs near the shelter, and engaging in illicit commerce such as prostitution. The shelter magnetizes this activity to its radius for reasons of both the proclivities of the shelter's population, and the permissiveness that the shelter's presence implies to drug dealers, hookers, etc. We, the Los Feliz stakeholders, were promised by Ryu and Mayor Garcetti a 24-hour dedicated LAPD patrol in the shelter's vicinity. That NEVER happened. You need to find a new approach to deal with homelessness. This is not working and only serves to hurt the neighborhood and the people nearby that are not homeless. Thank you, Julie Farr and Stan Dorobek

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/29/2023 05:36 AM

Council File No: 20-0841-S39

Comments for Public Posting: The Griffith Park Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee reported on A Bridge Home and South Griffith Park Excerpt: PUBLIC SAFETY IMPACT OF A BRIDGE HOME Griffith Park — A Place for “Safe Leisure” according to the charter of Recreation and Parks (RAP) South Griffith Park (SGP) is suffering significant and ongoing damage to both safety and leisure since the installation of A Bridge Home (ABH). ABH was installed in June of 2020. Since then, the below has profoundly increased or occurred for the first time at this location: • Fire • Crime • Drugs • Gangs • Encampments • RV’s • Threats to Children and Adults • Park Property Destruction FIRE There are three levels of fire hazards as ranked in California. All of Griffith Park including SGP is ranked highest as a very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFSZ) Captain Albarran of Fire Station 56 and Chief Losorelli of SGP Rangers both recount the fires in SGP are greatly due to the installation on of ABH. The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) records show ten recorded fires at ABH since its installation and none at that location for three years prior. Fires are also on record at the encampments induced by ABH that are set up along both sides and throughout SGP. Other, smaller fires as well are separately handled by SGP Rangers. Recorded fires do not include more fires also reportedly set and extinguished without calling authorities. CRIME LAPD Crime Map shows little crime in SGP in 2019, particularly at the location where ABH will be located the following year The next year, after the installation of ABH, a significant increase in crime is shown Records of SGP Park Rangers show a significant amount of crime at Friendship Auditorium, and also some crime at the Recreation Center, Adult Center, ABH and LA SHARES. ABH’s in general do not screen for many types of (or any?) criminal records (nor sobriety). Ergo ABH here at SGP recently housed two violent sex offenders registered on the California Megan’s Law Registry—one convicted of rape by force and rated 5 on the Static 99R Score, which put him at a higher-than-average risk for sexual re-offense; the other of rape by force or fear as well as two other sex crimes. In this context, note that ABH is installed across the street from the Recreation Center which include playgrounds, a nursery school, and a tennis center where very young children and women play. After the installation of ABH there have been

several occasions of electricity theft nearby, mostly done by owners of RV's who have parked along Riverside Dr. since ABH's arrival. DRUGS Since the installation of ABH there has been significant consumption of drugs in front of and nearby ABH. GANGS Several gangs have established their presence around ABH since its installation. ENCAMPMENTS A significant proliferation of encampments set up next to and around ABH after its installation, and which also spread across the street to other facilities of SGP, including the Recreation Center, its nursery school and tennis courts, and surrounding grounds of Friendship Auditorium. RV's RV's (and other larger vans and vehicles) set up along Riverside Drive in front of and around ABH after its installation. THREATS TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS / PARK PROPERTY DESTRUCTION The transient population at the Recreation Center has peacefully coexisted for a very long time with the participants of the many leisure activities along its grounds, including the playgrounds, nursery school, and tennis center. The transient population has been a benevolent part of SGP's tapestry for several decades, perhaps 50 years or longer. Around the same time as when ABH was installed across the street there was a very unfortunate, radical transformation of the homeless community into an aggressive, belligerent, threatening, sometimes naked, severely hyped on drugs and extremely mentally disturbed/psychotic population. This has caused regularly occurring, quite disturbing confrontations between this new state of the transients and the very young children and adults at the recreation facilities. There is a real and present danger someone—as likely as not a very young child—will be harmed, or worse, by a significantly disturbed transient who may not even know what they are doing. Furthermore, there is now an extreme, continuous, wanton, unrelentingly aggressive destruction, theft, and igniting on fire of park property throughout the Recreation Center at both the nursery school and tennis center. Finally, all of the above in this report is apparently typical of ABH's in general, if we take ABH in Venice as an example. POSTSCRIPT All of the above is not in any way, shape or form meant as an exhaustive account of every externality and damage to safety and leisure by ABH. The above report should be taken by the community of Los Feliz as a beginning point, from which the good people must continue to make a full accounting of all externalities that have been linked to ABH and have been voiced by so many.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/29/2023 05:51 AM

Council File No: 20-0841-S39

Comments for Public Posting: Griffith Park Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee Report on A Bridge Home and South Griffith Park Excerpt: PUBLIC SAFETY Part 2 The limitations of this Ad Hoc Committee—due to both the allotted time and realistic scope in obtaining verifiable data—made it prohibitive to broach, let alone verify, other reasonable and significant concerns from the lived experiences and traumas of many in Los Feliz over the past three years, prompting other concerns about ABH, such as its impact on the surrounding area beyond SGP. Examples: • Waverly Drive—directly behind ABH • Eastern hills above Los Feliz Blvd—directly north of ABH • Los Feliz Blvd. along both sides of the boulevard— around the corner of ABH • Hyperion, its bridge and surrounding areas—one block South of ABH • Atwater residential streets— just across the LA River (different jurisdiction than Los Feliz notwithstanding) It is reasonable to assume there is a likelihood, given unsavory events close to ABH listed in this report, that so too, behind, North, around the corner, one block South and just across the river, more mischief or worse has also taken place, especially given the various hues and cries expressed by residents in the above listed residential areas who have experienced various violations only after ABH was installed and they strongly believe it is due to ABH. On the topic of the beliefs of residents, the subjects in this report which were in fact broached and verified herein were primarily first known due to awareness and notifications provided by the Los Feliz Community, and so it would be very well, indeed, that the other directions not yet explored in this report are given similar rigor of investigation and potential verification, then also made public. And more fundamentally, Los Feliz residents need to be listened to far more than they have been by leadership. There is a perception among adjacent and greater Los Feliz residents that the political leadership has erred in its judgment regarding the location and effectiveness of this site. And perhaps there needs to be a reassessment of the A Bridge Home concept, as it is believed has already occurred in Mayor Bass's office. Many Los Feliz residents feel their needs and interests have been subordinated to those of the unhoused and there is unease and anger accordingly. As well, the City may have a huge responsibility and liability regarding this site, and a direct abdication of its most important

obligation to those it represents—the right to peaceful and safe neighborhoods and elimination of known risks by their elected representatives. A tragic example of such subordination is sadly exemplified by political leadership recently voted out of office in CD11. At the beginning of the first Venice ABH town hall, the new Councilmember who replaced him mentioned the many people who recently moved away from living near the Venice ABH, some losing lifelong homes. The new Councilmember could only offer her apologies—to the people who were gone, embittered, no longer needing to be heard. It was too late for them. Los Feliz political leadership must not commit the same egregious error with respect to our ABH. CONCLUSION ABH must be closed as soon as possible and its occupant re-located.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/29/2023 06:13 AM

Council File No: 20-0841-S39

Comments for Public Posting: Griffith Park Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee Report on A Bridge Home and South Griffith Park Excerpt: PUBLIC SAFETY PART 3 According to the minutes of the first virtual town hall of the Venice ABH, this “decompression” (closure) can take up to six months. However, SGP (and Griffith Park in general) faces several special vulnerabilities which make it especially unsuitable for ABH, as demonstrated in this report, therefore the need to close ABH far more quickly is paramount. In the meantime the following also must immediately be put in place: 1. A no-tolerance policy against encampments in all of SGP, including after closure of ABH. This will not only remove all temptations to ABH residents during the remainder of its operation, which is a significant reason special enforcement zones are legislated around homeless shelters (see below) but will better protect the operations and patrons of the Recreation Center (playground, nursery school, tennis center), and the Adult Center, Friendship Hall, and any other operations now and in the future in SGP. Park Rangers should use the essential and highly effective assistance of the newly expanded and increasingly funded homeless outreach organization CIRCLE— which provides same-day two- to three-person specialized and professional response teams suited to elements in play during such interactions. Using CIRCLE will also significantly relieve Park Rangers and LAPD of the workload. (If necessary, Griffith Park and RAP management should work with the City of Los Angeles to immediately expand CIRCLE’s nearby and continually expanding boundaries of operation to include SGP.) When necessary, LAPD will provide their customary support to Park Rangers and CIRCLE in removing encampments on Park grounds. 2. The “enhanced enforcement” policy by Hollywood Division Parking Enforcement along Riverside Drive continues indefinitely, to ensure full compliance with the “Tow-Away No Parking 10 pm to 6 am” signage all along both sides of Riverside Drive including in front of ABH. 3. A 1,000 foot special enforcement zone (SPEZ) around ABH until ABH is quickly closed. CD4 Councilmember Ryu promised our community’s initial supporters of an ABH placed in SGP that there would be a SPEZ. This element, the promise of a SPEZ, gave comfort to the Los Feliz Community and was a feature which helped garner its support. While both he and now his successor

have not applied that concept, the new Councilmember at C11 installed a 1,000 foot SPEZ at the Venice ABH 41.18 (c) (3) specifically provides a 1,000 foot (instead of a more typical 500 feet under 48.18) special enforcement zone for “a designated facility, opened after January 1, 2018, that provides shelter ... to homeless persons” under which all ABHs qualify. Note ABH’s are provided a larger than usual SPEZ area. This indicates our legislators recognize how great the need for special enforcement zones around ABHs. 4. A 500-foot special enforcement zone under SEZ Law (different from the above SPEZ Statute) is automatically available to all ABH’s. Our Councilmember simply needs to request the signage from the CAO, and they are immediately sent. It beggars belief this has never been done. It must be immediately requested under SEZ Law, until the 41.18 1,000-foot SPEZ is installed, all while waiting for ABH to be quickly closed. Furthermore, under this same SEZ Law, there are two other automatic benefits available to all ABH’s: a) Extra LAPD overtime (OT) funds for extra patrols of ABH b) Extra LASAN funds for extra clean-ups at ABH These funds are “use it or lose it”, given back to the community of the other ABH’s around Los Angeles for them to instead spend, if not used by our ABH. In some “nearby” cases the funds can instead be diverted rather than lost. If they are being diverted this must be explained and such diversions stopped immediately and be spent on LAPD and LASAN for our ABH. It's hard to say which would be worse—having not used the funds or diverting them. 5 . LAPD presence 24 hours, 7 days a week at ABH in order to immediately and severely mitigate all of its externalities until ABH is quickly closed. 6. Security people and measures installed at the Recreation Center across the street from ABH which amply protects the (often very young) children and adults at the playground, nursery school and tennis center until the highly aggressive and extremely unbalanced state of the transient population returns back to normal enough it becomes reasonable to reduce or eliminate this security regime.

Communication from Public

Name: Kevin

Date Submitted: 11/29/2023 11:00 AM

Council File No: 20-0841-S39

Comments for Public Posting: Griffith Park is one of the crown jewels of Los Angeles. It has stood for 125 years as a civic gift for all Angelenos. The homeless epidemic is one of the greatest black eyes in not only Griffith Park, but also all of Los Angeles. I don't stand here asking to criminalize homelessness. I ask only for the enforcement of existing laws on those who choose to engage in criminal activity. I have observed first hand Riverside Bridge Home residents who find themselves in dire circumstances and truly desire help. They work tirelessly to rise out of the situation in which they find themselves. They absolutely deserve attention and better situations. Unfortunately, I have also seen a far greater population of gang members, career criminals, rapists, and drug dealers who take advantage of the complete lack of enforcement and accountability. Though LAHSA, the agency accountable for the management of the Riverside Bridge Home operated by PATH, sets achievement goals, LAHSA neither audits the goals nor enforces failures by PATH to meet the goals. These failures are well documented through multiple Public Records Requests. This complete lack of oversight has attracted not only an increase in homelessness in the area of the Riverside Bridge Home, but also, more importantly, a substantial increase in criminal activity. Since installation of the Riverside Bridge Home, there have been 3 deaths from fentanyl overdoses in the immediate area. Today there's an encampment under Hyperion Bridge that a Bridge Home resident uses to sell fentanyl. Nithya Raman gave her a porta-potty. Since installation, acc9rd8ng to LAPD records, criminal activity in the area immediately around the Bridge Home has increased 300% compared to the surrounding area. Mayor Eric Garcetti promised that the Bridge Home would reduce homelessness in the area. Since installation, homelessness around the shelter has increased by 200%, NOT INCLUDING THOSE IN THE SHELTER. These numbers are taken directly from the annual homeless census conducted in Los Angeles. By any sane measure, the Riverside Drive Bridge Home utterly failed in its mission. How would anybody in their right mind continue this obviously failed experiment? I beg of you, please, do not let your legacy be the one that handed Griffith Park to drug dealers and rapists. If you think it can't happen, I invite you to take a walk in McArthur Park after dark. Please instead refuse to renew this

lease, or at least, provide a reasonable timeline and plan for closure and the end of this term.