

Communication from Public

Name: Emily N
Date Submitted: 12/09/2020 05:00 PM
Council File No: 20-1524

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Emily, and I'm a constituent who lives in El Segundo. I'm calling to urge the Councilmember to support extending Project Safe Haven. Since the program began in April, Project Safe Haven has helped house and provide services to nearly 2-thousand Domestic Violence survivors and their families. On December 31, the three-month funding extension for Project Safe Haven that the Council approved in August will run out. If no additional money is provided, hundreds of DV survivors and their children will wind up on the streets. This cannot be allowed to happen, particularly as LA nears a total shutdown. The whole reason for Project Safe Haven is that we know not everyone is safer at home. Right now, we will be making hundreds of survivors choose between homelessness or returning to abusive homes. This is a challenging time for the city's budget, but if budgets are a statement of our values, we must continue Project Safe Haven. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Shenette Holman
Date Submitted: 12/09/2020 05:08 PM
Council File No: 20-1524

Comments for Public Posting: Hello My name is Shenette Holman, I am an advocate and for women experiencing homelessness and domestic violence survivors. As a survivor of domestic violence I can honestly tell you it is both a terrible and scary feeling to have to wonder will you be placed back into the streets during an unprecedented coronavirus infections surge as Los Angeles nears a shut down or return back to the abusive partner that they were extremely fortunate to be able to flee with not only your life but your families life(s) as well. Ask yourself is that a decision that you or anyone in your family should have to make? In Less than a year Project Safe Haven has helped house and provide services to nearly 2 thousand Domestic Violence survivors and their families. Without continued funding in that same amount of time that a possible news headline could read nearly 2 thousand victims and their families have died from either being homeless and becoming infected with Covid-19 or murdered by their abusive partner due to the lack of funding to provide a safe Haven. This is a challenging time for the city's budget, yet as this public-spirited committee talks about how to use future H-HAP money from the state of California, I sincerely urge you to use these funds, or any other source of money, to extend Project Safe Haven. Often times when survivors are able to flee their abusive households they are only able to flee with the clothes on their back. Due to the pandemic a substantial amount of our business, and essential employess are only able to be accessed or offer services virtually. Therefore without the use of a smartphone, tablet, or computer with internet data or access to Wifi it is even more challenging to locate or even access shelters and other much need resources. Which then leaves the survivor feeling poweless. This can lead to the survivor feeling the need to abandon hope of living an unabusive life and return to their abusive household or reject the thought of fleeing the abusive household all together. The is an abundant amount of E-Waste (discarded electronics) that can be recycled and repaired and given to survivors to allow them to seek services and rescoures. Wifi and hotspots should not be a barrier to ones survival. On the behalf of future survivors, I would like to thank you for your time and attention.

Communication from Public

Name: Casey Callahan

Date Submitted: 12/09/2020 07:40 PM

Council File No: 20-1524

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Casey Callahan and I'm a constituent who lives in Historic Filipinotown. I'm calling to urge the Councilmember to support extending Project Safe Haven. Since the program began in April, Project Safe Haven has helped house and provide services to nearly 2-thousand Domestic Violence survivors and their families. On December 31, the three-month funding extension for Project Safe Haven that the Council approved in August will run out. If no additional money is provided, hundreds of DV survivors and their children will wind up on the streets. This cannot be allowed to happen, particularly as LA nears a total shutdown. The whole reason for Project Safe Haven is that we know not everyone is safer at home. Right now, we will be making hundreds of survivors choose between homelessness or returning to abusive homes. This is a challenging time for the city's budget, but if budgets are a statement of our values, we must continue Project Safe Haven. Thank you.