

Communication from Public

Name: MAR VISTA VOICE
Date Submitted: 02/23/2022 01:07 AM
Council File No: 22-0158

Comments for Public Posting: Via email and submission to City Clerk filing portal Re: COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT SUPPORTING COUNCIL FILE 22-0158 Members of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee: We are an organization representing Mar Vista stakeholders living in zip codes 90034, 90064 and 90066. Our membership urges the Committee to SUPPORT the motion within Council File 22-0158 allowing charitable organizations to provide shelter for our unhoused neighbors (the "Motion"). WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF MORE SHELTERS. Over the course of this past winter, there have consistently been fewer than five available shelter beds on any given night across all of L.A. County. Moreover, an average of five unhoused Angelenos die every day on our streets. The lack of beds contributes directly to the death toll and is a testament to our city's failure to tap into an existing network of charitable organizations that are ready and willing to help address homelessness. Our city's churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and other non-profits want to be part of the solution by bringing people in from the heat and cold. We should allow them to do so. PREVENTING PLACES OF WORSHIP FROM CARING FOR THE POOR VIOLATES THEIR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS. For many churches and other houses of worship, providing shelter to the poor is the physical embodiment of a central tenet of their faith. Constraining this sort of ministry through rules and regulations—including land use rules—violates their rights to the free exercise of religion as protected by the First Amendment. Courts have held that providing shelter to the homeless can be characterized as constitutionally protected religious exercise, and that precluding such activity via zoning regulations imposes an unconstitutional burden. OTHER CITIES ARE LEADING THE WAY. Cities like Houston have made a significant dent in homelessness by unleashing the resources and compassion of private organizations. Houston focuses solely on permanent supportive housing, providing many times more units than its homeless population, and leaves the provision of temporary shelter entirely to churches and other nonprofits. Under this model, the city can focus on actual housing and let nonprofits fill the gap, instead of warehousing people for decades in a large stock of municipal shelters that take a lot of time and money to build. PREVENTING CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS IN R1 ZONES FROM HELPING POOR PEOPLE PERPETUATES OUR HISTORY OF DISCRIMINATION. Much of the Los Angeles housing crisis is driven by a history of zoning laws used to exclude people of color from white enclaves. By allowing only single-family homes to be built in a given area, developers could price out non-white residents as well as block “undesirable” establishments. LAMC 12.81, which provides that a shelter cannot be established in R1 (“One Family”) zones, is another example of the racist and exclusionary practices that must be rewritten for an equitable future. Given that Black people make up 8% of L.A. County's population and 34% of its homeless population, there can be no doubt that the application of these outdated zoning rules to religious shelters discriminates along racial lines. WE SHOULD NOT SHUTTER EXISTING SHELTERS. We also support streamlining the process to allow existing shelters to become permanent. Given the urgent need for more shelter beds, it does not make sense to shutter shelters that have already been established. Rather, we should keep their doors open, learn from their experiences, and lighten their load by allowing other churches and nonprofits to bring in more of our unhoused neighbors. We cannot keep rejecting viable solutions simply because they might impact white, affluent single-family zoned enclaves. We must ALL do our part, and preserve the right of religious organizations with compassion for our fellow human beings to do the same. We therefore urge you to support this common-sense motion. Sincerely, MAR VISTA VOICE Mar Vista Voice recommends the following articles for further reading: Using Shelter Strategically to End Homelessness (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness): <https://www.usich.gov/news/using-shelter-strategically-to-end-homelessness/> California's Housing Crisis Rooted in Racist Zoning Laws (Ethnic Media Services): <https://ethnicmediaservices.org/housing/californias-housing-crisis-rooted-in-racist-zoning-laws/> Op-Ed: What can Houston teach Los Angeles about solving homelessness?: <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-01-30/houston-teach-los-angeles-curbing-homelessness> (L.A. Times)



February 22, 2022

Chair Kevin De León

Vice-Chair Nithya Raman

Members Joe Buscaino, Monica Rodriguez, Bob Blumenfield

Via email and submission to City Clerk filing portal

Re: COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT SUPPORTING COUNCIL FILE 22-0158

Members of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee:

We are an organization representing Mar Vista stakeholders living in zip codes 90034, 90064 and 90066. Our membership urges the Committee to SUPPORT the motion within Council File 22-0158 allowing charitable organizations to provide shelter for our unhoused neighbors (the "Motion").

We are in desperate need of more shelters. Over the course of this past winter, there have consistently been fewer than five available shelter beds on any given night across all of L.A. County. Moreover, an average of five unhoused Angelenos die every day on our streets. The lack of beds contributes directly to the death toll and is a testament to our city's failure to tap into an existing network of charitable organizations that are ready and willing to help address homelessness. Our city's churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and other non-profits want to be part of the solution by bringing people in from the heat and cold. We should allow them to do so.

Preventing places of worship from caring for poor people violates their First Amendment rights. For many churches and other houses of worship, providing shelter to the poor is the physical embodiment of a central tenet of their faith. Constraining this sort of ministry through rules and regulations—including land use rules—violates their rights to the free exercise of religion as protected by the First Amendment. Courts have held that providing shelter to the homeless can be characterized as constitutionally protected religious exercise, and that precluding such activity via zoning regulations imposes an unconstitutional burden.

Other cities are leading the way. Cities like Houston have made a significant dent in homelessness by unleashing the resources and compassion of private organizations. Houston focuses solely on permanent supportive housing, providing many times more units than its homeless population, and leaves the provision of temporary shelter entirely to churches and other nonprofits. Under

this model, the city can focus on actual housing and let nonprofits fill the gap, instead of warehousing people for decades in a large stock of municipal shelters that take a lot of time and money to build.

Preventing charitable organizations in R1 zones from helping poor people perpetuates our history of discrimination. Much of the Los Angeles housing crisis is driven by a history of zoning laws used to exclude people of color from white enclaves. By allowing only single-family homes to be built in a given area, developers could price out non-white residents as well as block “undesirable” establishments. LAMC 12.81, which provides that a shelter cannot be established in R1 (“One Family”) zones, is another example of the racist and exclusionary practices that must be rewritten for an equitable future. Given that Black people make up 8% of L.A. County's population and 34% of its homeless population, there can be no doubt that the application of these outdated zoning rules to religious shelters discriminates along racial lines.

We should not shutter existing shelter. We also support streamlining the process to allow existing shelters to become permanent. Given the urgent need for more shelter beds, it does not make sense to shutter shelters that have already been established. Rather, we should keep their doors open, learn from their experiences, and lighten their load by allowing other churches and nonprofits to bring in more of our unhoused neighbors.

We cannot keep rejecting viable solutions simply because they might impact white, affluent single-family zoned enclaves. We must ALL do our part, and preserve the right of religious organizations with compassion for our fellow human beings to do the same. We therefore urge you to support this common-sense motion.

Sincerely,

Mar Vista Voice

Mar Vista Voice recommends the following articles for further reading:

Using Shelter Strategically to End Homelessness (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness): <https://www.usich.gov/news/using-shelter-strategically-to-end-homelessness/>

California's Housing Crisis Rooted in Racist Zoning Laws (Ethnic Media Services): <https://ethnicmediaservices.org/housing/californias-housing-crisis-rooted-in-racist-zoning-laws/>

Op-Ed: What can Houston teach Los Angeles about solving homelessness?: <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-01-30/houston-teach-los-angeles-curbing-homelessness> (L.A. Times)

Communication from Public

Name: Brentwood Glen Association
Date Submitted: 02/23/2022 10:22 PM
Council File No: 22-0158
Comments for Public Posting: See attached Letter from Brentwood Glen Association



BRENTWOOD GLEN

A S S O C I A T I O N

Cori Solomon, President
Jon Feldon
Stacy Galina
David Heldman
Margaret Orenstein
Mary Pringle
Jacqui Rosen
Neil Smolen
Teri Solomon
Yoram Tal

February 23, 2022

Hon. Kevin de León, Chair, City Council Homelessness & Poverty Committee (HPC)
Hon. Nithya Raman, Vice-Chair, HPC
Hon. Bob Blumenfield, Hon. Joe Buscaino and Hon. Monica Rodriguez, members, HPC
Hon. Mike Bonin, Councilmember, CD 11

Via email and submission to City Clerk filing portal

Re: Council File 22-0158 (scheduled for hearing by the HPC on 2/24/22); OPPOSE:

Dear Councilmembers,

Brentwood Glen Association ("BGA") is a community of 500 families bounded on the West by the Veterans Administration property, on the north by Sunset Boulevard, on the east by Church Lane, and on the South by Waterford Street.

BGA opposes the motion in CF 22-0158, and specifically opposes any changes to the City's zoning regulations that would allow homeless shelters to be constructed by right in R1 areas, without regard to otherwise applicable zoning restrictions, location, or consideration of impacts on the community, and in any other zones where they are not currently allowed by right. We also oppose any proposal to make temporary or interim homeless shelters permanent, without regard to otherwise applicable zoning restrictions, location, or consideration of impacts on the community.

BGA learned on February 22, 2022, that the above-referenced matter was scheduled for hearing by the HPC on February 24, 2022. Discovering what the BGA considers a vague and overbroad motion two days before a hearing does not allow Brentwood Glen time to evaluate. We, therefore, request that there be an extension of 30 days for public comment, whether or not the Motion is re-worked by this Committee, so that meaningful public comment can be made to the Motion. Public comment at this stage of the Motion could well serve to inform Planning and City Attorney in their efforts if the public clearly understands the Motion and its parameters and the public has adequate time to review and respond.

In addition, BGA requests the following:

1. Request Homeless and Poverty Committee (the "Committee") work to modify their motion (the "Motion") so that the guidance to Planning and City Attorney is more precise and specific and will allow for a more useful, tailored, and responsive approach from those groups. At presently drafted, the motion is vague and presumably overbroad, and could be read to be asking for all forms of zoning protections to be over-ridden, including State mandate reviews and studies.



BRENTWOOD GLEN

A S S O C I A T I O N

2. Modify the Motion, so the Planning and the City Attorney are instructed to ensure that all recommendations comply with all State-mandated requirements, including CEQA where applicable.
3. Modify the Motion to place a specific time frame on any "emergency-related" relaxations of zoning rules, and in all events, do not preclude public comment or CEQA where applicable in relaxing such rules.
4. Be sure to include the opportunity for meaningful public comment once any requested reports and recommendations from Planning and City Attorney are produced.
5. Ask that all modifications that allow for the zoning-based expansion of the potential location for religious organization (or non-profit) operated homeless shelters be combined with the implementation of LAMC 41.18 protections.

Sincerely,

Cori Solomon
President
Brentwood Glen Association

Communication from Public

Name: David Barboza
Date Submitted: 02/24/2022 10:31 AM
Council File No: 22-0158
Comments for Public Posting: Please see Abundant Housing LA's attached support letter for the motion dated 2/9/2022 in this council file.



2/24/2022

The Honorable Mike Bonin, Nithya Raman and Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Support – Council File 22-0158 – Facilitating Shelters for People Experiencing Homelessness

Dear Councilmembers,

We write on behalf of Abundant Housing LA in support of your motion dated February 9th, 2022, in **Council File 22-0158**, which directs the Department of City Planning to report back on options to allow shelters for people experiencing homelessness and other interim housing options for formerly unhoused people in a broader range of zoning districts during a declared shelter crisis, and to report back on options for streamlining the approval of these forms of housing.

Abundant Housing LA is a pro-housing, nonprofit advocacy organization working to help solve Southern California's housing crisis. We support reforms to legalize more homes, make homes easier to build, increase funding for affordable housing, and protect tenants, which are all needed to make housing more affordable, improve access to jobs and transit, promote greater environmental sustainability, and advance racial and economic equity. As a community organization, in order to maintain our independence, we do not accept financial support from housing developers or their consultants.

The need for additional shelter beds, interim housing and permanent supportive housing in the City of Los Angeles is a serious and well-documented problem. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's November 2021 [Homelessness Statistics by City report](#) provides clarity in this regard. In the January 2020 homeless count, which predates the widespread impact of COVID-19 in California, there were 41,290 unsheltered people counted in the City of Los Angeles. In the most recent quarter assessed by the report, only 1,749 people were placed into permanent housing, only 6,863 people were placed into interim housing, and only 2,601 people received rapid re-housing assistance. Housing placements are not keeping up with the identified need, let alone with the needs of those people who do not show up in the count because of the difficulty inherent in counting people who may seek to stay out of view due to issues such as public and police harassment.

As you explore options to facilitate badly-needed shelter, please also bear in mind that homelessness cannot effectively be addressed apart from the larger housing affordability crisis,

which is driven by a housing shortage. For example, between 2014 and 2019 median rent in Los Angeles increased by 28.0% per American Community Survey data, while the overall consumer price index between those years rose only 7.6%. When housing prices rise faster than inflation, people of modest means are forced to live in overcrowded conditions, forgo other necessary expenses and in the most extreme cases, are pushed into homelessness. We must ensure that we are not exacerbating homelessness faster than we are ameliorating it.

For these reasons, we are proud to support your motion, and we offer our thanks to you for bringing this important proposal forward.

Sincerely,

Leonora Camner

Leonora Camner
Executive Director
Abundant Housing LA

David J. Barboza

David J. Barboza, AICP
Director of Policy and Research
Abundant Housing LA

Communication from Public

Name: SORO People's Committee

Date Submitted: 02/24/2022 05:22 PM

Council File No: 22-0158

Comments for Public Posting: It is imperative that the city of Los Angeles support the effort to expand opportunities for shelter proposed in council file 22-0158's motion. Affording charitable organizations the ability to operate shelters on their own property benefits all who live nearby, housed or unhoused, and must be allowed. It is an undeniable fact that much of the Los Angeles housing crisis is driven by a history of zoning laws used to exclude “undesirables” from certain neighborhoods. LAMC 12.81, as it is currently written, is another example of the exclusionary practices from the Los Angeles of old that must be rewritten for an equitable future. We support fast-tracking temporary shelters that may wish to become permanent. There is no end date for homelessness in Los Angeles, and there is still much work to be done. Building a stock of permanent shelters throughout all of Los Angeles is a vital part of a future in which no one sleeps on the streets or in our parks.



Thursday, February 17, 2022

To our esteemed councilmembers,

It is imperative that the city of Los Angeles support the effort to expand opportunities for shelter proposed in council file 22-0158's motion.

Affording charitable organizations the ability to operate shelters on their own property benefits all who live nearby, housed or unhoused, and must be allowed. It is an undeniable fact that much of the Los Angeles housing crisis is driven by a history of zoning laws used to exclude “undesirables” from certain neighborhoods. LAMC 12.81, as it is currently written, is another example of the exclusionary practices from the Los Angeles of old that must be rewritten for an equitable future.

We support fast-tracking temporary shelters that may wish to become permanent. There is no end date for homelessness in Los Angeles, and there is still much work to be done. Building a stock of permanent shelters throughout all of Los Angeles is a vital part of a future in which no one sleeps on the streets or in our parks.

YOURS SINCERELY,

THE CONCERNED STAKEHOLDERS OF THE SOUTH ROBERTSON PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE