

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amir Farhang

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2022 07:49 PM

**Council File No:** 18-0510-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Honorable Councilmembers: I have lived across the street from the abomination that is the Venice Bridge Home since it was built. I have never felt safe living in the art lofts. I had to move to the east side and rent my place out because of the distress it caused me. Whatever the plan you had in place, it failed. You've failed us. People still use this as a hub for all their activity. It has created a 3 block safe haven radius for vagabonds who CHOOSE to be homeless to run rampant with their crimes and drugs. Let me state this again—they are CHOOSING to be homeless. Why wouldn't they? You've allowed them to live a rent and consequence free existence. Bravo. This motion for renewal or extension of the lease to the A Bridge Home project (ABH) at the Metro 6 site must be denied as there has not been adequate public process or discussion and opportunity for community, Neighborhood Council input, including the waiver of consideration by the Information, Technology, and General Services Committee. Furthermore, it appears that no notice to surrounding property seems to have been required or provided. Commitments made in conjunction with the ABH have not been kept, and as a result, it has failed to meet its objectives and resulted in collateral consequences for the surrounding housed and unhoused community, including chronic, serious safety and health problems for both housed and unhoused. Abundant research, including a recent report from the RAND corporation, has made it increasingly clear that congregate settings, such as the Venice ABH, are not effective for or desirous to unsheltered individuals. These factors combine to justify, at the least, a more substantial discussion around extending this investment and approach before perpetuating a highly ineffective model that has had a particularly exigent impact on both the unhoused and housed. this community. Given the above-mentioned concerns, I request that this matter either be denied or put on hold so that there can be a fuller public process where the community has input in advance of any negotiation that takes place with Metro with regard to the length of a new lease or extension of the existing lease. Thank you for your consideration, Amir Farhang 615 Hampton Dr #B201 Venice, CA 90291

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/28/2022 03:31 AM

**Council File No:** 18-0510-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** I live in West Adams on South Harcourt Avenue near the freeway underpass. I love West Adams and have actively done my part to grow our community and be a good neighbor. Unfortunately, the growth of the homeless epidemic has affected the West Adams community particularly hard and it's time for something to be done. I have personally contacted several homeless advocacy groups to find housing for the individuals under the bridge, and have been assured that housing has been provided to everyone willing to accept it (by multiple groups). I have also been in contact with the city of LA and the team in charge of cleanups, who have expressed their frustration with this encampment and their unwillingness to be housed. I have had to stop walking outside of my house because of some of the activity under the freeway. There have been fires, overt illegal activity, harassment, open disputes, and misuse of the fire hydrant (which has led to it being turned off). I am not a fan of tossing away our unhoused neighbors, I believe in rehabilitation and community outreach. However, if housing and help is offered and refused then something more must be done. In action is passive action, and highlights the blatant disregard for the growth of our community. Someone on the WANC needs to standup for our community and help find housing for the encampment while also making it illegal to live under the bridge.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Brennan Lindner

**Date Submitted:** 06/28/2022 06:51 AM

**Council File No:** 18-0510-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** Councilmembers, I request that you do not vote for the motion, as presented. There is currently no need to extend a lease that is not expiring until 2023 at this time. The more important item to address are the issues around this ABH facility, and if they can be fixed, improved, then yes, discuss extending the lease. But to blindly approve something that is not working for both the individuals inside ABH, and the residents around ABH is moronic. The facility has led to increased crime and encampments, as well as multiple deaths within the facility, and warrants a second look. Simply put, one does not extend a car lease on a broken car. First address the inherent problems, then discuss an extension, if warranted. Brennan Lindner Venice Resident

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Craig Enders

**Date Submitted:** 06/28/2022 07:08 AM

**Council File No:** 18-0510-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmembers and Staff As a concerned citizen and neighbor of the Venice Bridge House (VBH), I am writing to implore that you deny the proposed lease extension. Extending the lease without adequate time for public discussion is a gross example of overreach and misappropriation of public funds and trust. The simple fact is that VBH has been a failure by any objective metric. The project was supposed to help hundreds of unhoused individuals transition into permanent housing. As of the beginning of this year, that number was closer to three dozen. To my knowledge, there has been no objective evidence provided by the city that continuing to pour taxpayer money into this project is an effective strategy for combatting the humanitarian crisis that has unfolded in our neighborhood since VBH opened. In fact, all evidence points to the contrary. VBH ultimately represents broken promises—broken promises to the unhoused individuals who were supposed to benefit from this program, and broken promises to the community who were assured that the area around the facility would be clean, safe, and free of encampments. Our neighborhood has devolved into third world conditions as we consider renewing a high-cost solutions that will not come close to addressing the scope of the problems outside our front doors. The current situation is simply untenable for all involved, as VBH serving no one while failing everyone. Mike Bonin and the CD11 staff have refused to address public safety and sanitation issues attached to VBH. This project has failed its stakeholders, housed and unhoused. Even for those of us who initially supported the endeavor, the inescapable conclusion is that the project does not deserve another chance. The lack of robust public discussion in advance of the motion to renew the lease is indicative of this failure. If the project can stand on its merits, then we deserve to see the evidence. The truth is, that evidence doesn't exist, nor does a rationale for extending the VBH lease. Best regards, Craig Enders Venice Resident, CD11 Constituent, and VBH Stakeholder