

Communication from Public

Name: Debora Masterson

Date Submitted: 12/05/2022 03:25 AM

Council File No: 22-0975

Comments for Public Posting: I have read through the Initial Documents and the Environmental Review that have been submitted by Brightstar for their plan to build a new publicly-funded charter elementary school in North Hills and the root issue is being overlooked. We do not need another elementary school in North Hills. We already have 12 elementary schools in a town of 5.5 square miles. We have an elementary school every 2.18 miles in our small town. We do not need another elementary school. Long before Brightstar came into the picture, our community has been working on a better plan that we call The Plummer Street Project. Since April 2021, we have been working on designating the historic house that is situated on the property and built in 1914, as a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument. Our grass-roots organization called The North Hills Preservation Consortium, presented our plan to restore the house, create a small museum and new park for the community, to to the owner, to our councilwoman CD7 Monica Rodriguez, and to our North Hills East Neighborhood Council in August 2021. Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez reached out to the owner with an initial offering of \$1.2 million to purchase the properties. We have offered to create a 501c3 non-profit organization to manage the historic house and museum, if that would please the city. North Hills is in the Very High Need for park space. The Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment Survey https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_130.pdf identified North Hills in the Very High need for park space. We have only one park in North Hills. North Hills has .5 park acres per 1,000 people compared to the rest of LA County which averages 3.3 park acres per 1,000. As North Hills becomes more dense with multi-unit dwellings, it is imperative that we have more pocket parks. Parks are a crucial part of any community, not only for the well-being of our residents, but also to mitigate climate change. Unpaved ground absorbs water and parks reduce the urban heat island effect due to the abundance of asphalt and concrete in urban areas. So my question to Los Angeles City Planning is why is this root issue not being addressed? We have 12 elementary schools and 1 park. Brightstar has checked all the correct boxes, dotted their I's and crossed their T's, but after all is said and done, it is just plain wrong to approve the construction of a new elementary school in North Hills. Thank you for your consideration, Debora Masterson