

Communication from Public

Name: Andrea Rojas

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Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: Hello Council members, My name is Andrea Rojas and I am writing as a constituent of district 8 to urge you to vote no on Item #17 which would veto a decision from the South LA Planning Commission to reject a conditional use permit on publicly owned land. This land was formerly the site of the Bethune Library. It is now a vacant, 34,000-square-foot lot on Vermont Avenue in South Central Los Angeles. The library was named for Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, a Black woman educator and civil rights activist who co-founded the United Negro College Fund. This vacant, public land should be used to serve our community and honor the legacy of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, who as a civil rights activist, created a large impact in her community. A decade ago, the city promised that whatever would get developed on this site would “provide ongoing community benefits.” Now they are breaking that promise. The City Zoning Administrator said no to the hotel. The South LA Planning Commission said no to the hotel. Most importantly, for ten years, the people have been saying no. In the midst of a citywide housing crisis, we should not be using valuable public land for corporate development projects like luxury hotels, which gentrify and displace communities to accommodate tourists. Thank you.