

Communication from Public

Name: Deirdre Hennings

Date Submitted: 01/27/2023 05:14 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council members: Please vote NO on 23-0026 to veto a decision by the South LA Planning Commission to reject a conditional use permit on publicly-owned land, which held the Bethune Library but is now a vacant lot on Vermont Ave. You should not be using public land for a private hotel--this space is supposed to provide a public benefit, like a park or affordable housing or a community center. A luxury hotel will only spur gentrification and line the pockets of developers. Please act instead for the good of the community. Thanks.

Communication from Public

Name: Tieira Ryder

Date Submitted: 01/27/2023 07:30 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: The Bethune Library in South Central Los Angeles is named after the late Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, a Black American civil rights activist. "Bethune worked to establish programs that would fight to end segregated education, to improve healthcare for black children, and to help women use the ballot to advance equality." South Central Los Angeles like most of Los Angeles county neighborhoods is struggling with housing insecurity. Black residents make up at least 40% of the homeless population even though they are only 8% of the total population. Black Angelinos & other residents from supposed marginalzled groups need affordable housing. They do not need another hotel & they definitely don't need it on publicly owned land. Residents have been requesting this public asset for community-owned affordable housing & other community programs. We have requested support from HCD the state housing authority to help us acquire this public asset. There are many Black-led community land trust groups & community-land trusts in general that can utilize this space for community needs especially as Los Angeles county deals with a housing crisis that has 70,000+ homeless. Reminder; offering this publicly owned asset to a private hotel developer against the wishes of residents does violate the surplus land act!

Communication from Public

Name: Ruth

Date Submitted: 01/27/2023 07:48 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: The Bethune Library is named after Dr. Mary McLeod, a civil rights activist who started the United Negro College fund. Turning it into a new hotel would be breaking a promise to South LA residents who NEED affordable housing & community investments, not accommodations for transient visitors. In the San Fernando Valley, a 150-room hotel, The Sportsmen's Lodge, is set for demolition to build unaffordable housing (the 78 LI units aren't truly affordable or accessible since they won't accept a voucher or subsidy & are administered through the developer, not the Housing Authority). Why does LA PLUM think that residents of the City of Los Angeles don't notice that resident-constituents are constantly getting sold out for developers? Councilman & PLU Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson: Preserve the hotel in the Valley, cancel the Bethune Marriott, & stop selling out the poor in LA. You know what to do. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Nancy Zelaya

Date Submitted: 01/27/2023 04:36 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council Members: I am writing as a constituent to urge you to vote no on 23-0026 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. 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. While some say that a hotel will help our community economically, it’s important to note that other projects such as affordable housing, bring forth economic opportunities while also helping to prevent our community members from ending up homeless without an affordable place to live. I urge you all to keep all of this in mind. Thank you, Nancy Zelaya