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for Economic Justice

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As CLUE, we educate, organize, and mobilize the faith community to accompany workers and their families in their struggle for good jobs, dignity, and justice.

October 4, 2023

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Chair, Planning and Land Use Management Committee
200 North Spring Street, Room 450
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Kevin De León
200 North Spring Street, Room 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Opposition to Rendon Hotel (CF #22-1162 / C #-22-1162-S1 / CF #22-1162-S2)

Dear Chair Harris-Dawson and Councilmember De León,

I am writing on behalf of Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), asking you to oppose the Rendon Hotel Project. CLUE is a faith-rooted worker and racial justice organization that educates, mobilizes and organizes people of diverse faith traditions throughout Southern California to take action in solidarity with low-wage workers and immigrants. CLUE brings together clergy and lay leaders of all faiths with the marginalized, the unheard, and the least protected—low-wage workers—in the cause of a just economy that works for everyone.

In the midst of a homeless crisis, it is highly disturbing that the City is considering allowing a new boutique hotel to permanently remove over 30 units designated for SRO (single room occupancy) housing. The Rendon Hotel's proposed replacement housing plan appears to violate the plain language of the Development Guidelines and Controls for Residential Hotels. The Guidelines state explicitly that rehabilitation is not allowed as replacement housing for sites listed in Attachment A of the document. The El Sol is listed in Appendix A of the Development Guidelines. The use of El Sol's rehabilitation for the Rendon project's replacement obligations would permanently and inappropriately extinguish obligations to replace units at El Sol, permanently reducing the stock of units designated for SRO housing.

The diverse faith communities that we organize and represent know very well the importance of more affordable and equitable housing in neighborhoods like Downtown Los Angeles and throughout our city. We know that we simply can not afford to lose any opportunities to provide increased housing. Please do not approve this without a compliant housing plan.

In solidarity,

Rev. Jennifer Gutierrez

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