

Juan Mendoza

Professor Castro

English 1B

18 December 2019

### Somewhere for the Homeless

To whom it may concern,

Going through Los Angeles county, I rapidly see the homeless; I see them sleeping on the streets in front of businesses, I see them on the sides of streets sometimes in tents, and I see them sleeping on park benches sitting because there are dividers in the middle of most benches. I propose a possible temporary solution, a parking lot. This parking lot has the potential to grow into something bigger if given the chance. It can also be a temporary home for the homeless and eliminate some areas such as Skid Row and keep the homeless off the streets where they may face harm and/or unnecessary judgement.

It seems the issue of people not having a home is only worsening. Already, the percentage of homeless has increased 16% in 2018 to a total of 59,00 and due to the rent costs in LA, citizens need to make at least \$47.52 an hour to afford the median rent price ("Los Angeles' homeless population has jumped 16% from 2018"). Skid Row is a circumstance of the problem of rent increase among other things. 92% of LA homes are out of reach out of the average citizen and rent seems to only be increasing ("Los Angeles' homeless population has jumped 16% from 2018"). I am aware of the many efforts and money spent on the problem of the homeless not having a home, where the city spent almost \$620 million to address the problem

but yet the number of homeless has only increased (“In LA's homelessness crisis, the Skid Row is everywhere”). I think the possible solution of having a parking lot for these people could help.

Possibly in time, Skid Row can become something else or disappear entirely ideally with this solution and less homeless can appear on the streets.

When I see the homeless, I see them in tents sometimes or on the ground. Some also have enough to buy used cars but have nowhere to park and sleep. With this parking lot solution, the homeless can have somewhere to camp and park their cars if they have one to sleep in. Not many places offer overnight parking and some only offer it if you buy something or else you would risk getting your car towed; this, however, would not be a problem here hopefully. It can be a simple barebones parking lot but I also propose that it have some park benches without dividers or any items that can be donated by the community such as beds, cots, couches, etc.. The community can gather around donating items to this parking lot and in time, this parking lot solution may grow and become something bigger; a donation center as well as a hub for the homeless where they do not have to worry about being kicked out during their sleep or getting a rude awakening from a business they might have slept in front of.

No one expects to be homeless let alone the stress it carries. As I said before, I think this solution has potential to grow with the help of the community but I still feel that this solution on its own would be a great help to many people of Los Angeles. The homeless would not have to risk getting kicked out from the front of a business or getting stepped on in their sleep and those with cars would not have to risk getting their cars towed and having another problem on their hands when they have enough to carry already. This place can also be used as a hub for the

homeless where they can discuss job opportunities and more as well as share what little they have to come together to improve their lives along with the help from the community. I do think this would help the county greatly.

### Works Cited

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- Beres, Derek. “Los Angeles' Homeless Population Has Jumped 16% from 2018.” *Big Think*, Big Think, 12 Sept. 2019,  
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City Clerk Council and Public Services &lt;clerk.cps@lacity.org&gt;

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**Fwd: Possible solution for homeless**

1 message

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**Anna Martinez** <anna.martinez@lacity.org>  
To: Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 18, 2019 at 8:26 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Juan Mendoza** <jmendoza2597@gmail.com>  
Date: Wed, Dec 18, 2019 at 7:47 AM  
Subject: Possible solution for homeless  
To: <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Hello Mrs. Wolcott, I am Juan Mendoza, a former citizen of Los Angeles County. For my English 1B class, we are proposing solutions for the problems of our community of which I consider LA mine. In this PDF I propose a possible solution, if you would take the time out of your busy schedule to read this, I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you for your time and have a great day

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 **Somewhere for the Homeless.pdf**  
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